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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 107

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2008

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should the CNMI
grant improved
immigration status
to long-term alien
workers?

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INSIDE



Food Inflation

The U.S. is wrestling with the worst food inflation in 17 years, and analysts expect new data to show it's getting worse.

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Afghan Ambush

Taliban militants crept through groves of grape vines and pomegranate trees to launch a surprise assault, killing 11 policemen in southern Afghanistan.

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Theft of Work

J.K. Rowling testified before a packed courtroom in a lawsuit to block publication of a Harry Potter lexicon.

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GAO: 4 options for NMI employers

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has outlined four options for Northern Marianas employers to hire foreign workers under a federalized immigration system.

In its legal analysis of the CNMI federalization bill, the GAO said the legislation "allows federal agencies to preserve access to foreign workers in the CNMI

during the transition period but limits access to certain workers after the transition period ends."

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Mayor's employee electrocuted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Maratita

An employee of the Saipan Mayor's Office died after being electrocuted yesterday morning when a boom truck he was op-

erating touched a high voltage primary line behind the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman.

Jeffrey Nakatsukasa Maratita, 37, fell to the ground as the boom truck caught fire. He was

See MAYOR'S on Page 4

'The End' for Hollywood Theaters?



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The façade of the Hollywood Theaters-Saipan Megaplex in San Jose.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex will inexplicably shut down after its Thursday showing but local staff has remained mum on the reasons for the closing.

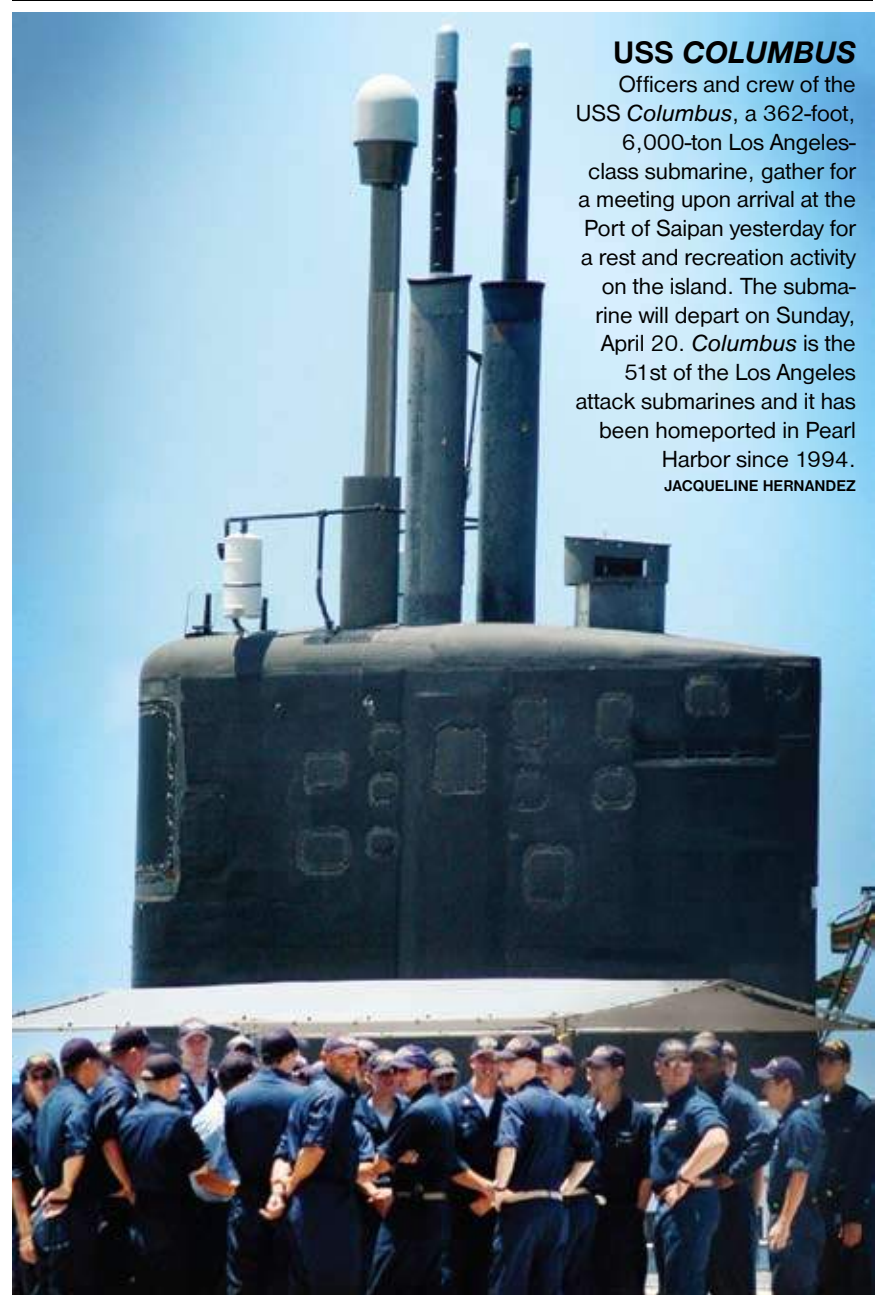
In a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Hollywood Theater general manager William Santos was noncommittal.

See THE END on Page 4



A Northwest Airlines' plane taxis at the Saipan International Airport.

AP



USS COLUMBUS

Officers and crew of the USS *Columbus*, a 362-foot, 6,000-ton Los Angeles-class submarine, gather for a meeting upon arrival at the Port of Saipan yesterday for a rest and recreation activity on the island. The submarine will depart on Sunday, April 20. *Columbus* is the 51st of the Los Angeles attack submarines and it has been homeported in Pearl Harbor since 1994.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Delta, Northwest agree to combine

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines Inc. and Northwest Airlines Corp., squeezed by record high fuel prices and a slowing economy, are combining in a stock-swap deal that would create the world's biggest carrier. The boards of both companies gave the deal the go-ahead Monday.

The announcement could spur other

airline combinations. The most likely scenario that has been talked about is a potential deal between United and Continental airlines.

Under the terms of the Delta transaction, Northwest shareholders will receive 1.25 Delta shares for each Northwest

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TAX DEADLINE

Hundreds of Saipan residents troop to the Division of Revenue and Taxation office in Dandan to beat the deadline for filing the 2007 Individual Income Tax Return yesterday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JTB: 32K Japanese visitors for Marianas

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Marianas will receive about 32,000 Japanese visitors during this year's Golden Week, according to a study by a Tokyo-based travel management agency.

Data from JTB Corp. show that the same number of Japanese travelers came to Guam and Saipan during the same time last year. No individual figure is given for each destination.

Golden Week is a series of national holidays in Japan, beginning on April 26 and ending on May 6.

But Japanese are expected to go on trips any day between April 25 and May 5, with overseas departures peaking in the second half.

Overall, overseas travel during this year's Golden Week is seen to drop by almost 15 percent, with the number of travelers declining from 536,000 last year to 458,000 this year.

Popular destinations can expect their Golden Week arrivals

to decline. Examples are Hawaii, which faces an 11 percent drop in Japanese visitors during the holiday period; Europe, 19 percent; and the U.S. mainland, 23 percent.

JTB Corp. observed that travelers tend to pick destinations closer to Japan because of the timing of the national holidays. There are three working days separating the first national holiday (April 29) from the four other holidays.

JTB added that if travelers rely only upon national holidays, they will not have a long enough period to head for remote destinations like Hawaii or Europe. "And when time off has to be added to national holidays, costs have to be carefully considered," the agency said.

In most cases, JTB prices are lower for tours during the second half or toward the end of Golden Week. For Hawaii, the largest number of departures throughout the entire period is on May 4, when prices revert to normal weekday rates.

"Economy minded travelers are clearly deciding to tuck on paid holiday entitlement following national holidays in departing for more remote destinations," JTB said.

Further, JTB said the rising fuel surcharges may be a factor for the reduced number of travelers.

A look at JAL's one-way flights showed that fuel surcharges rose significantly over the past year. The fuel surcharge for Guam flights, for instance, increased from Y5,200 (about \$52) in April 2007 to Y8,000 (about \$80) this month.

Fuel surcharges also increased by \$53 for Hawaii, Thailand and Singapore; \$80 for North America, Europe, and Oceania; and \$39 for China.

"For most Golden Week destinations, [fuel surcharges] have effectively risen by over 50 percent over the last year. Any further increases in fuel surcharges will invite reductions in the number of overseas travelers," JTB said.

Visitor arrivals down after 4 months of continued growth

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas went down in March 2008 after four straight months of growth, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Arrival numbers slumped by 3.74 percent to 32,349 in March 2008 compared to 33,606 visitors in the same period a year ago. This snaps the four-month streak of positive growth that began in November 2007.

Fiscal year-to-date (October 2007-March 2008) numbers also show a decline of 2.36 percent, from 210,363 to 205,395.

MVA said Japan arrivals continue to struggle as March 2008 showed a decrease of 16 percent to 18,135 compared to 21,685 during the same period last year.

One major factor that contributed to this decline, according to MVA, is the airline seat inventory for the month. In March 2007, there were a total of 24,248 seats from Japan which comprised daily flights from Narita and Nagoya and nighttime flights from Narita which came in three times per week and nine charter flights from Osaka.

For the same month this year, the CNMI's tourism body said there were a total of 20,522 seats, which only include daily flights from Narita, Nagoya, and Osaka. This alone represents a 15-percent decline in airline seats from Japan in comparison to March 2008 and March 2007 numbers, respectively.

In contrast, Korean arrivals once again

showed double-digit growth. March arrivals were up 14 percent to 7,169 compared to 6,271 in March 2007.

Fiscal year-to-date arrivals from Korea are also up a whopping 34 percent to 60,831 from 45,345 during the span last year, according to MVA.

"Korea has shown double-digit growth consistently over the last few months. Asiana Airlines and its parent company's investments in the CNMI, combined with effective marketing strategies, are contributing factors in this growth," said MVA.

March was also a positive month in terms of arrivals from China, as 2,260 visitors came to the CNMI in March compared to 1,583 in March 2007—a 43-percent hike in numbers.

MVA said airline seats contributed to the increase in visitor arrivals from the Middle Kingdom. In March 2007, the CNMI only had flights from Guangzhou, China, which brought in 1,782 seats for the month. However, in March 2008, the CNMI had flights from Guangzhou and Beijing, which provided a total of 2,884 seats which equated to an increase of 62 percent over the same time period last year.

Of notable importance, the arrival of MSS Statendam brought in 1,130 passengers which contributed to the growth in U.S. and others.

"Although our No. 1 source market of Japan continues to struggle, we are encouraged by the growth out of Korea," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We continue to look for ways to increase air seats out of Japan into the CNMI in an effort to increase our arrivals from all regions of Japan."

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Two CUC power engines overheat, trigger outages

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Two power engines at Power Plant I in Lower Base over-

heated, triggering outages in some areas on Saipan yesterday morning and in the afternoon.

The outages began at 10:18am when the jacket cooling water

system in engines No. 2 and 6 sounded the alarm, prompting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew to reduce production at both engines.

CUC Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that Al Santos of Power Plant I power generation informed him that some load needed to be taken from the island grid. As a result, power supply to some laterals or streets were taken offline.

Camacho said the outage affected the Gualo Rai area from

11:25am to 11:40am. From 11am to 1pm, the blackout was at the Taro Sue area. From 11:04am to 1:23pm, the outage occurred in Upper Miha. From 10:35am to 12:34pm the outage was in Upper Chinatown and from 10:18am to 12:46pm, the outage was in the Kannat Tabla area.

With respect to CUC's need

to produce \$2 million for the fuel supply at Power Plant I until the end of this week, Camacho said the dollar amount is still being discussed with the administration.

"The executive director is still trying to pursue the funding and he is hopeful that that problem will be resolved soon by the administration," Camacho said.



NMC-CREES OPEN HOUSE

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Visitors check out the red fish and tilapia showcase at the Aquaculture & Fisheries development program booth during the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service 3rd annual open house at the NMC on As Terlaje Campus Friday morning.

Man allegedly threatens ex-wife with machete

Police arrested on Monday a man who allegedly threatened to kill his former common-law wife with a machete at her residence in Kagman III.

Aspiner S. Epina, 38, was arrested for assault and disturbing the peace.

A \$1,000 cash bail was initially imposed for Epina's temporary liberty. He was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Police learned that on Mon-

day at 6am, Epina arrived at the house of his former common-law wife and started shouting. He was allegedly armed with a machete.

The suspect then went inside the house and asked the victim where she was "last night."

In fear, the victim ran to the other room as her adult son came out and managed to get Epina out from the house.

The suspect continued shouting at the victim, then left.

Earlier that day, the victim said that Epina also went to her house, looking for her. When the victim returned, her minor daughter informed her that Epina checked her and threatened he would kill her and whoever she is having a relationship with now.

On Tuesday morning, the victim sought police help. Police arrested Epina at his present residence in Kagman III later that day.

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-Annette A. Donner
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Welcome to Saipan
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Rota municipal councils lobbying against casino bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Tension is brewing among Rota officials over who should have the power to appropriate the earnings of the island's future casino industry.

The Rota Municipal Council is lobbying the governor to veto

a House bill that would allow the Rota Legislative Delegation to appropriate casino gaming revenues.

The council says it was expressly given that authority by the Rota Casino Act, which was overwhelmingly passed by the voters in November 2007.

"Needless to say, House Bill

16-1, HD1, is constitutionally flawed, infirm, unreasonable, and unfair," the council told the governor in a letter.

The council added that the Rota Legislative Delegation is only allowed to make "technical amendments" to the constitutional provision. The body maintained that the proposed change to the casino

act will affect the substance of the legislation.

The council is made up of chairman Roy James Masga, vice chairman Alfred M. Apatang, and secretary Vicente M. Calvo.

Under the Rota casino law, there will be no restrictions on the total number of casino licenses that may be issued, or the number

of casinos that a person or a group may own or operate on Rota.

The license application fee may cost up to \$100,000 and an annual license fee may not exceed \$200,000 for the first license year.

A Rota gaming tax equivalent to 5 percent of the gross gaming revenue will also be collected

from casino operators.

A total of 1,095 voters approved casino gambling on Rota, and 187 voted against it. The number of "yes" votes represents 70 percent of the 1,564 registered voters, and 85 percent of the voter turnout on Rota. The initiative needed only two-thirds of the registered voters to pass.

GAO

From Page 1

One option for CNMI and Guam employers is to petition for foreign workers under federal nonimmigrant H visas without counting against numerical caps for H-1B and H-2B visas.

Each year, only 66,000 such visas are issued for employers across the country. Until 2014, the CNMI and Guam will be exempted from this quota.

Visa holders will be limited to working in the CNMI or Guam. Spouses and minor children can accompany the visa holder. Under current federal requirements, H-1B visa holders can stay up to three

years initially, with a possible three-year extension. H-2B visa holders can stay for up to one year initially, with a possible two-year extension.

The second option is to acquire temporary CNMI-only nonimmigrant work permits. This option is available, during the transition period, for employers of foreign workers who are not eligible for H visas.

The U.S. Secretary of Labor may extend the CNMI-only program indefinitely for up to five years at a time.

Temporary workers with CNMI-only permits are to be treated as non-immigrants under U.S. immigration laws, and may apply for a change of status, either to another nonimmigrant status

or to permanent residency. They may transfer freely between CNMI employers, but they may not travel or work in the rest of the United States.

Third, during the transition period, existing CNMI-government-approved foreign workers who are legally present in the CNMI under CNMI immigration laws on the effective date of the transition period are temporarily protected from deportation.

However, they must obtain U.S. immigration status before their pre-federalization, CNMI-issued permit expires or within two years of the transition period's effective date, whichever is earlier. If not, they may be deported.

Fourth, during and after the transition period, CNMI employers can petition for nonimmigrant status and employment-based permanent immigration status for workers under the same procedures as other U.S. employers.

However, the GAO said, access to foreign workers in low-skill positions will be limited after the end of the transition period in 2014, and after any extensions of the CNMI-only permit program.

The GAO said that in addition to superseding and replacing all CNMI immigration laws, the bill will eliminate any other CNMI laws related to the admission or removal of aliens, which could include

some CNMI labor laws.

The U.S. Senate, by a vote of 91-4, passed the bill. The measure now heads to the U.S. House of Representatives, where it has bipartisan support. The House is expected to concur shortly. Once the bill clears the House, it will be sent to the president for his signature, and will then become law.

In addition to federalizing CNMI immigration, the bill would also give the Commonwealth a delegate with limited voting powers to the U.S. House.

It also contains a provision requiring the Department of the Interior Secretary to consult with Homeland Security and the CNMI governor two years

after the bill's enactment and report to Congress on the status of nonresident worker population in the CNMI, including recommendations on whether Congress should consider permitting legal aliens to apply for long-term immigration status.

The Fitial administration opposes the immigration bill, saying it is too restrictive and would further damage the CNMI's struggling economy.

The local government believes that a federalized immigration system would make it difficult for the CNMI to hire alien workers to fill jobs in the islands. It also fears the CNMI will lose its edge as a destination for Russian and Chinese tourists.

MAYOR'S

From Page 1

pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center at 11:03am.

Police did not release infor-

mation to the media about Maratita's injuries.

Detective Peter Aldan stated in his report that at 10:23am, the Department of Public Safety received a call of an injured person behind Santa Soledad Church. Medics were dispatched after po-

lice learned that a person had been electrocuted by a power line.

A responding police officer learned that prior to the incident, Maratita was helping Ramon Castro Sablan and Wayne Sablan Sanches relocate the mayor's picnic tables from Santa

Soledad Church to another site.

Maratita was operating the Mayor's Office's boom truck when it came into contact with a primary power line of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Police said Maratita was electrocuted and a fire started at the

boom truck.

When Maratita fell to the ground, Sablan and Sanchez managed to pull him away from the truck.

Sanchez ran to look for a telephone, while Sablan stayed with the victim.

Paramedics arrived and trans-

ported Maratita to CHC where a doctor later pronounced him dead.

Saipan Tribune learned from CUC that the live primary line contained 7,970 volts.

There were picnic tables at the church because of the fiesta celebration last Sunday.

THE END

From Page 1

tal when asked about rumors relating to his establishment's closing—whether temporarily or for good.

But when asked why Hollywood Theater doesn't have an entry for its movie schedules beginning Friday—either

on its website or through telephone—and whether the seven-stadium venue would be open on April 18 and beyond, Santos said, "I have not issued a schedule for Friday...we are not open for Friday." He also replied "no" when asked if the establishment would be open for the rest of April.

Even staff at Hollywood Theater remain tight-lipped about

the company's plans as queries about Friday's schedule were quickly referred to Santos.

Saipan Tribune browsed through Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex's website and found that it only has entries up to Thursday, April 17, where it abruptly ends. It, however, has a posting beginning May 16, 2008, when *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince of Caspian* is

scheduled for showing.

Santos said he would not comment on the website posting and requested that *Saipan Tribune* wait for the official announcement from its corporate office in Oregon.

E-mails and telephone calls were made and sent to Wallace Theatres Corp. chief operating officer Clyde Cornell and marketing director Heather

Wright, but the company officials have not returned calls or responded to the e-mails as of press time.

Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex, located next to Price Costco, opened with much fanfare in Sept. 8, 1999.

During its first week of operation, the venue showed *Deep Blue Sea*, *Haunting*, *Iron Giant*, *Mystery Men*, *Bowfinger*, *Amer-*

ican Pie, *Thomas Crown*, and *Miss Kristina Moran*.

If tomorrow indeed is the last day of Hollywood Theater, the last movies it showed on record are *Leatherheads*, *Nim's Island*, *Superhero Movie*, *Drillbit Taylor*, *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!*, *Never Back Down*, *10,000 B.C.*, *College Road Trip*, and *Definitely, Maybe*.

DELTA

From Page 1

share they own. The exchange ratio represents a premium to Northwest shareholders of 16.8 percent based on Monday's closing stock prices.

That currently values Northwest at almost \$3.63 billion based on 277 million Northwest shares that the companies said are outstanding.

Delta said the combined airline, which will be called Delta, will have an enterprise value of \$17.7 billion, which includes the combined market values of the two companies and combined net debt. It will be based in Atlanta, and Delta CEO Richard Anderson will head the combined company.

Delta Chairman Daniel Carp will become chairman of the new board of directors and Northwest Chairman Roy Bostock will become vice chairman. Delta President and Chief Financial Officer Ed Bastian will retain his titles.

The new board will be made up of 13 members, seven of whom will come from Delta's board, including Anderson, and five of whom will come from Northwest's board, including Bostock and Doug Steenland, the current Northwest CEO. One director will come from the Air Line Pilots Association, the union that represents pilots from both carriers. Anderson told reporters on a conference call it will be a Delta pilot holding the voting seat.

"We are confident the transaction will go forward and be approved," Steenland said.

There will be an unspecified number of job cuts or transfers through the consolidation of overlapping corporate and administrative functions, Delta said. The two airlines employ more than 80,000 people combined. The company expects no involuntary furloughs of front-line employees and said the existing pension plans for both companies' employees will be protected.

Delta doesn't plan to close

any of the two airlines' hubs.

Delta also said that it has agreed with its pilot leadership to extend its existing collective bargaining agreement through the end of 2012. The agreement, which is subject to pilot ratification, will allow the combined company to realize the revenue synergies of the transaction, Delta said. It also provides the Delta pilots a 3.5 percent equity stake in the new company and other enhancements to their current contract.

The agreement does not cover Northwest pilots.

Delta said it will use its best efforts to reach a combined Delta-Northwest pilot agreement, including resolution of pilot seniority integration, prior to the closing of the merger.

U.S.-based non-pilot employees of both companies will get a 4 percent equity stake in the new airline when the deal closes, Delta said.

Northwest pilots and the union representing most of Northwest's ground workers immediately announced they

would fight the combination.

Dave Stevens, chairman of the Northwest branch of the Air Line Pilots Association, said in a prepared statement, "The risk to Northwest Airlines and to the Northwest pilot group from letting this merger proceed, as it is now structured, is simply too great."

Northwest didn't consult with the union that represents its baggage handlers, ramp workers and ticket agents, said Joseph Tiberi, a spokesman for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

"If the airline wanted the support of their employees they should have brought us in and discussed it with us earlier," he said.

Lee Moak, head of Delta's pilots union, said Delta hopes cooler heads will prevail.

"It takes two to fight," Moak told The Associated Press. "We don't see a fight here. We see a cooperative relationship with the Northwest pilots to bring everybody to parity as soon as possible."

The two pilots unions were

unable to agree on integrating seniority lists before the combination was announced. A joint contract they had reached was never consummated.

The announcement comes a year after the two carriers emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Both carriers are losing money again but are in much better shape than the four much-smaller airlines that have filed for bankruptcy or gone out of business in recent weeks.

The deal will need antitrust approval, and integrating the work forces of fully unionized Northwest and Delta, where pilots are currently the only major unionized work group, will be tricky.

The joining of Atlanta-based Delta and Eagan, Minn.-based Northwest, if approved by regulators and shareholders of both companies, will result in combined annual revenue of \$31.7 billion, vaulting it ahead of Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp.'s American Airlines for the top spot in the U.S.

It would be the biggest carrier in the world in terms of traffic, before any further domestic capacity cuts and any divestitures that might be required by antitrust regulators.

The agreement comes after several months of merger discussions between Delta and Northwest and at one time between Delta and Chicago-based UAL Corp.'s United Airlines. Analysts believe a Delta-Northwest combination will stand up better to regulatory scrutiny because the two carriers have less overlap, even though a Delta-United combination could create more scale and have greater synergies.

Years of mounting losses forced Delta and Northwest to file for bankruptcy protection in New York on Sept. 14, 2005. Both emerged from bankruptcy as leaner carriers last spring, after shedding billions in costs during their reorganizations.

While in bankruptcy, Delta fended off a hostile takeover bid by Tempe, Ariz.-based US Airways Group Inc.

Bridge Investment team returns from 8-day China trip

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bridge Investment Group's local architecture and engineering team recently returned from an eight-day trip to China where it conducted a final review of amended setup plans for the \$40-\$60 million Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project.

The company's vice president for CNMI operations, Phillip Mendiola-Long, said that everything about the plans seem to be order and that they all meet U.S. and CNMI building codes.

He said the five staff members of the local A&E team, Herman Cabrera and Associates, worked day and night to finalize the project's plans.

"In fact, while we were there, we loaded the first 6'X40' containers with the initial construction materials to begin construction on our construction worker staff housing. The container is due to arrive late this month and during the time the materials are on the water our A&E team will be processing the permits for our temporary housing and we will be processing the labor contracts for the first 30 construction workers necessary to build the temporary staff housing," said Mendiola-Long in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Bridge Investment plans to

The Bridge Investment Group team pose with Tianyuan Construction Group chairman Guiyu Zhang, center. Members of the BIG team in the photo are Phillip Mendiola-Long, Rey Ferras, Roman Demapan, Gus Delgado, Herman Cabrera, and Jun Liu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

construct a 301-room hotel and casino resort on Tinian as well as 268 condominium rooms in the CNMI's gambling capital. It will be built on 75,000 square feet of land that the company has leased for 55 years.

Aside from Herman B. Cabrera and Associates, Bridge Investment has also contracted the office of Mailman & Kara, certified public accountant Bruce McMillan, Marianas Development Corp. as its grounds maintenance firm, Power Buildings International as its local construction firm, FPA Inc. for ground clearing, and Marianas Environmental Services to work on its master site permit, environmental study, and prepare its report for the Historic Preservation Office.

Bridge Investment is a company formed by U.S.-mainland based investors Erik F. Wang, Rudy Pamintuan, Howard Li, Ken Wong, Akshay Desai, and Rocky Li.

The company said it also has offices in five different countries—Japan, Korea, China, U.S., and Russia.



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS DPWOS-RFQ-019

702 CIP PROJECT MANAGERS FOR SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of the Department of Public Works, are soliciting sealed Statements of Qualifications from qualified individuals to serve as one of three 702 CIP Project Manager for each CNMI District (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota)

The Project Manager will be retained as an independent contractor under the general supervision of the Secretary of Public Works or his designee. The Project Manager will be responsible for the coordination and management of a designated number of Architectural and Engineering (A/E) design contracts, Construction Management or Construction in Administration contracts, as well as Construction Contracts for new facilities and/or the renovation of existing facilities in the CNMI. Project management will be limited to those capital improvement projects that funded under Section 702 of the Covenant between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Further, the selected individual(s) or Firms(s) shall agree not to bid and/or propose in any future Architectural & Engineering and/or Construction Management services funded with the 702 Covenant funds, in whole or in part, while on an active contract with the Contracting Officer.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 3-103 of the regulations. Preference is available to local proposers in accordance with Public Law 15-95.

The **REVISED** Scope of Work will be available on or after, **April 9, 2008** at the DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan. No Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for this RFQ. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (**US\$50.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 24, 2008**.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following technical merit:

- 1. Past experience as a Project Manager – 40%**
- 2. Current workload of the individual and ability to commit to the scope of work – 40%**
- 3. Proposed project team organized and individual qualifications including inspectors to participate as part of the team (15%)**
- 4. References (5%)** – Give the name, address, and telephone hone number of references for a minimum of four (4) projects stated in your Past Experience

Price is also a factor that will be considered in addition to the technical merit of proposals. As proposals become more equal in technical merit the importance of price will increase. The government reserves the right to make an award to other than the lowest priced proposal.

Discussions will be held with those determined reasonably susceptible of being selected for award of a contract for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Those short-listed proposers will be afforded an opportunity to submit a "best and final offer". Each CNMI District (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) will be awarded a Project Manager based on the complexity of projects assigned, and qualification evaluation of each proposer. The successful proposers may be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPWOS-RFQ-019"**. Proposers may indicate the preferred district he/she prefers to be a PM, however, technical merit evaluation ratings shall supersede such preference. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed Statements of Qualifications must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 30, 2008**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their statements by submitting a Notice of Intent to Submit Statements of Qualifications. Notices of Intent to Submit Statements of Qualifications must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 30, 2008** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 30, 2008** AND must be received no later than **May 9, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching fund, provided by the CNMI Government. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

All responses to this RFQ should take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FEDERALIZATION POTLUCK

Human Dignity Movement officials, members and supporters gather at a pavilion on Beach Road, Garapan for a federalization potluck luncheon party Sunday afternoon. The U.S. Senate recently passed an omnibus bill that contains provisions to federalize the Commonwealth's immigration control.

'San Diego ruling will have big impact on Miura case'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan legal team of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura yesterday expressed belief that the San Diego court's double jeopardy ruling last

week will have a strong impact on Miura's murder case.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, attorney William Fitzgerald, one of Miura's three Saipan lawyers, said it was a decision from the same San Diego Superior Court, so other judges don't necessarily have to follow it, like decisions made by the Supreme Court.

"But usually if the reasoning is sound, the judge will pretty much...try to be consistent," Fitzgerald pointed out.

The lawyer said he read the San Diego court decision, which according to him, "sounds exactly like our case."

On Friday, the San Diego Superior Court dismissed a murder charge against Celestino Mendez Martinez who had already served a sentence in Mexico for murdering his wife. The court cited the principle of avoiding double jeopardy, in which a person may not be tried twice over the same crime.

According to the Yomiuri Shimbun report, Martinez was convicted of murder in Mexico, having fled there after killing his wife in the U.S. 20 years ago.

Martinez was released on parole in 1994 after serving only six years of an 11-year sentence. He was reportedly re-arrested in connection with the murder after he re-entered the U.S.

Because there are many cases of people committing crimes in the U.S. fleeing to Mexico, and then going back into the U.S., the California Legislature revised the law in 2004 to allow prosecutors in the state to try people with crimes even if they have already been convicted abroad, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* report said.

The San Diego court ruled that

because the decision in Mexico on Martinez's case came before the revision of the state law, the indictment was invalid because "it infringes the principle that laws must not be applied retroactively."

Fitzgerald said the San Diego decision could have been taken from the motion filed by Miura's California counsel, attorney Mark J. Geragos.

"He [Geragos] made the same points that the judge in this case is using," Fitzgerald noted.

"We had a guy [Martinez] who killed his wife, ran off to Mexico, was tried and convicted in Mexico and served his sentence, got out and went back to the states. And they want to try and put the same crime back," Fitzgerald said.

The lawyer said that because California changed the law in 2004, if that crime happens today, the government could prosecute Martinez.

Fitzgerald said the prosecution, however, can't apply the statute retroactively because it will violate the Constitution.

Fitzgerald said their legal team can't cite the San Diego ruling in the Martinez case, because that matter has to be brought in California instead.

"The problem here is we're sister states, so to speak. We can't really stick our nose into the business of California. It's up to them," he said.

The 60-year-old Miura was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in Los Angeles in 1981. Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

Europe Highlights

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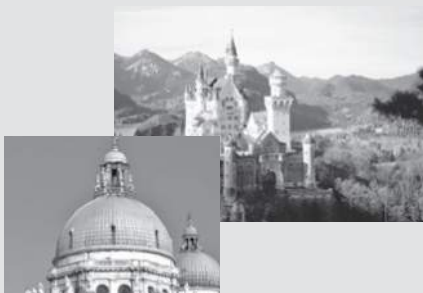
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High court overturns landownership ruling

The CNMI Supreme Court has reversed a Superior Court decision dismissing Arthur B. Camacho's landownership case against the Micronesian Development Co. and the Marianas Public Lands Authority, saying that the lower court failed to address a number of relevant facts.

The history of the case began in 1964, when the Trust Territory government issued Bruno R. Torres a homestead permit to a parcel of land on Tinian. In 1965, the Trust Territory government leased a 7,500-acre parcel of land to MDC, which contained all or part of Torres' homestead property. The homestead property switched hands over the years and, in 1973, the land came into Antonio Camacho's possession.

In 1979, the Marianas Public Land Corp. granted a 20-year leasehold extension to MDC, but, in 1981, the Commonwealth government issued a fee simple certificate to Antonio Camacho and the deed did not mention the MDC leasehold or its extension. In 1982, Antonio Camacho died and the property ultimately passed to Clarissa Camacho and Arthur Camacho. Arthur Camacho claimed that he discovered the encroachment of the MDC leasehold in 1996, and brought this lawsuit against both MPLA and MDC for trespass and unconstitutional taking.

The Superior Court dismissed the Camachos' lawsuit on the grounds that it failed to state a cause of action. The Supreme Court found that the Superior Court dismissed the case with-

out addressing a number of disputed determinative factual matters. The decision was reversed and the case was sent back to the Superior Court to make those factual determinations.

The Supreme Court panel that heard the case was composed of Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro of the Commonwealth Supreme Court, as well as Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Jr. of the Guam Supreme Court and former Justice Jesus C. Borja of the Commonwealth Supreme Court sitting as Justices Pro Tem. (PR)

Fitial to attend regional chiefs' summit in Palau

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is off to Palau next week to attend the 9th Western Micronesian Chief Executives Summit.

The conference will be held on April 23 to April 26, 2008.

For this reason, the governor has asked the Legislature to reschedule his State of the Commonwealth Address, which was originally slated for April 25, 2008.

Fitial said the twice-yearly conference had already been set and he feels "obligated to participate in this important regional forum."

Saipan hosted the last two meetings of the Micronesian leaders.

Members of the summit include Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Palau President

Tommy Remengasau, Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, and Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori.

Topics discussed during the meetings include workforce investment, invasive species, solid waste management, energy, health, tourism, transportation, zoning, education, and the Micronesian Challenge.

Fitial has urged the Legislature to schedule his annual speech for the second week of May.

After the Palau trip, the governor plans to be off island the first week of May for an undisclosed reason, and again at the end of May to attend his daughter's college graduation in California. (Agnes E. Donato)

Bangladeshi community marks Bengali New Year

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least 300 people gathered at the Garapan Central Park Monday evening to welcome the Bengali New Year 1415, Pohela Boishak.

Cultural song-and-dance numbers and activities were performed during the event by members of the Bangladeshi community as well as representatives of the Filipino, Chinese, and local community who participated to show their support.

Food was also shared as people in the crowd greeted and wished each other a bright new year.

One of the highlights of the festivity was the colorful fireworks display donated by the Saipan Taxi Association.

Saipan Taxi Association president Rabby Syed, who at-

tended the event with his family, said he is happy that people in the community have come together "to celebrate with us on this wonderful occasion."

Special guests at the event included former Labor hearing officer Herbert Soll, Marianas High School teacher Ron Hodges, and Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio.

Rep. Tina Sablan was also invited as a special guest to the event but was not able to make it; however, she provided the Bangladeshi community a special message, wishing them a prosperous new year.

"This is a very special day for all of us. And we are very thankful that our Chinese, local, and Filipino friends were able to come and show their support for us. For that, we want to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to them," Syed said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RED CROSS DONATION

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, through a grant from the Hillblom Foundation, donates a much needed ultrasound unit to the CHC Labor and Delivery Department. The new equipment allows the labor and delivery doctors and nurses to make assessments on prenatal fetal position and to do other critical imaging. Pictured are various Red Cross volunteers as well as CHC L&D staff and hospital administration.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS *Ingraham* arrives today

The USS *Ingraham*, a 453-foot Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate with over 200 sailors will arrive today, April 16, and depart Sunday, April 20. This follows the arrival of the USS *Columbus*, a Los Angeles-class submarine, which arrived yesterday. It will also depart Sunday, April 20.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a joint welcome reception for the officers and crews of both the *Ingraham* and the *Columbus* today, Wednesday evening, at 6pm at the Hard Rock Cafe. Hard Rock will be supplying complimentary snacks, and drinks will be at happy hour prices. (SCC)

MMAC meeting today

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will have a meeting today, Wednesday, April 16, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The committee will discuss vital information regarding the upcoming 2008 MMAC, which will be held on May 16-17, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. All Committee members are urged to attend this important meeting as the event is fast approaching.

The general public is kindly being reminded of the upcoming 2008 MMAC where critically needed funds will be raised for the fight against cancer.

The MMAC is the largest fundraising event in the CNMI that supports the battle against cancer. It is the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led organization that ensures that all funds raised are applied locally.

If you or anyone you know is interested in contributing to this worthy cause, email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisa Concepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. (MMAC)

Utility payment assistance available

Funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program are now available to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill.

This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay their power

bill with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela said that applications may be picked up at his office at Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working days.

For more information call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 235-7304 or 234-6208. (PR)

Chamber scholarship deadline on Friday

Deadline for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund is fast approaching and those interested are urged to turn in their applications now.

This year, the Chamber will award six \$1,500 scholarships to deserving Saipan high school seniors. Both public and private high school seniors are eligible, as are non-U.S. citizens. To download complete eligibility requirements and application materials, visit the Chamber's website, www.saipanchamber.com, as well as at the Chamber office in the Family Building on Garapan Street in Garapan.

Applications are due at the Chamber office by 5pm, Friday, April 18, 2008, and scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's general membership meeting on June 4, 2008. Questions may be directed to the Chamber at info@saipanchamber.com or 233-7150. (SCC)

ChaCha Ocean View PTSA meeting

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will have a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2008, from 6pm to 7pm. Upcoming SAT 10 testing and the 8th Grade promotional ceremony's student attire will be discussed during this important meeting. Should you have any questions and/or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. (PR)

DUI/sobriety checkpoints this week

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI checkpoints this Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, April 18, the first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose building. This operation will start at 7:30pm and will end 8:45pm. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Garapan by the Horizong Building. This will start at about 10pm

and will end around 11:15pm.

On Saturday, April 19, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa by Meenas Store. This will start at around 7:30pm and end at 8:45. The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai by Sherwin Williams building. This operation will begin at 10pm and end at around 11:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, traffic officers will conduct highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdiction, and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Juan C. Mendiola or Sgt. Jerry Ayuyu at 664-9085. (DPS)

Live-fire training on Farallon island

The U.S. military will be conducting live-fire training and aerial survey on Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- April 16 – 20, from 8:30am to 1am, live-fire training
- April 21 from 5am to 7pm, aerial survey
- April 22 from 1:30pm to 6pm, aerial survey
- April 23 from 8am to 11:30am, aerial survey

EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Tinian High PTA meeting tomorrow

To all parents and legal guardians of Tinian High School students: The Tinian High School Parent Advisory Council gives notice of intent to change the name to Tinian High School Parent Teacher Student Association. A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow, April 17, 2008 at 3:30pm at the Tinian Youth Center. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, contact Wella Mendiola at wellaemendiola@yahoo.com or francesca diaz at diazfrancesh@hotmail.com or 433-3800. Your

participation is needed. (PR)

SSHS PTA meeting tomorrow

To all parents and legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School students: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)

Hopwood upcoming events

- April 14-18: Testing days for the SAT 10. Students' attendance is important for these testing dates
- May 4,5,6: Accreditation visit. Parent and community involvement is highly encouraged
- May 19 - 20: 8th Grade Final Exams
- May 28: 8th Grade Promotion Day (2:30pm-5:30pm)

MHS Calendar of Events

- April 21-25: SAT10 Tests
- May 5-16: Advanced Placement Tests
- May 12-16: Standards-Based Assessment Tests
- May 26: No classes (Memorial Day)
- May 31: MHS Commencement Ceremony
- June 3: Fourth Quarter ends

Give the gift of rest, relaxation

Be "A Star for a Day" when the Society for Human Resources Management-CNMI Chapter celebrates Administrative Professionals Day on Thursday, April 17, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The event will be from 11:30am to 1:30 pm (doors open at 11am) and will cost just \$15.

"Join us for a little bit of R&R time as we offer sensual massages, beauty tips, indulge in chocolates and enjoy a wonderful lunch buffet! Everyone will have a chance to win gift certificates, including beauty treatments," said the society in a statement.

Reservations are required. Contact Polly Deleon Guerrero at pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com, Frannie T. Salas at frannietsalas@gmail.com or Tommy Kennington at hr@picsaipan.com or 234-7976 to do so.

Major sponsors include The SPA at Fiesta Resort Saipan, DFS Galleria, PIC, Expressions, Juan's Beauty Salon, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Flor's Beauty Salon.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 16, 2001

Cops tossed to drug tests

Taking the cue from recent reports alleging involvement of law enforcers in illegal drug use and trade, the Department of Public Safety launched this month a random drug testing of its over 350 police officers and office personnel. The random testing was launched in response to a government-wide call to weed out public officers of officials and employees who either use or trade prohibited substances.

Regaining paradise from prostitution

Saipan residents are determined to regain their beautiful island of clear waters, white sand, green and palms that they once lost to prostitution. Island residents discourage both male and female sex workers from doing their "business" here, a move they described a people's initiative to preserve the image and reputation of Saipan as a peaceful and wholesome tourist destination.

Saipan may regress to coconut, fish economy

If existing federal restrictions on use of public lands remain, the Northern Marianas may witness a grand return to subsistence livelihood which it was once known for before it became a prime tour destination. Former Covenant negotiator and lieutenant governor Pete A. Tenorio said the Northern Marianas economy will ultimately regress due to current federal statutes which act as incentive to potential land development in the CNMI.

APRIL 16, 2002

FAA vows funding assistance for NMI's air transport system

The Federal Aviation Administration vowed to extend all necessary assistance to the Commonwealth Ports Authority in efforts to continuously enhance the Commonwealth's security and air transport system. FAA Regional Administrator William C. Withycombe said the agency looks forward to continuing the tradition of cooperation and partnership between them and the ports authority to ensure secure and efficient air transportation system.

Amendments to tobacco settlement law sought

To finance the anti-smoking campaign of the Governor's Office for Youth Affairs, Special Assistant Florence Kirby is lobbying with lawmakers to amend the Master Settlement Agreement trust fund statute to allocate 20 percent of the money coming to the CNMI under the settlement agreement to her office. In line with this, Kirby said Friday that Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera has already pre-filed a bill that would amend Public Law 12-44-the original law that created the trust fund that would receive the \$500,000 that the CNMI is supposed to get every year from tobacco makers.

DPS: Cite stores selling butane to kids

Local stores caught selling butane gas or other inhalants to children should be cited, Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho asserted. "Butane and other types of gas that some kids are sniffing should not be sold by the stores to minors. And parents should not send their kids out there to buy these kinds of items," said the DPS commissioner, alarmed over the growing incidence of butane gas abuse among school children.

APRIL 16, 2003

'Eliminate homestead program'

The Marianas Public Lands Authority is asking the Legislature to pass a measure that would terminate the long-running homestead program in the CNMI. MPLA commissioner Henry Hofschneider said in an interview yesterday that it is one of the options that the agency is exploring amid the scarcity of public lands.

Nurses to be deployed at Saipan airport

Various government officials are now working on a plan to deploy some government nurses at the Saipan International Airport as part of the goal to effectively implement preventive measures against the entry the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome into the CNMI. The Department of Public Health, headed by Secretary James U. Hofschneider, met with Department of Labor and Immigration officials Monday to discuss the plan.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy birthday to Leticia U. Palacios who is celebrating her birthday today, April 16, 2008. Have a wonderful day, girl, and enjoy! Coming from your coworkers, the SENATE GIRLS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School
Honor Roll list for 3rd Quarter

6TH GRADE**"A" Honor 3.5-3.99**

- Kanani Lee
- Eron Constante

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49

Enoch Jr. Lim
Isa Tudela
Ericka Garcia

7TH GRADE**"A" Honor 3.5-3.99**

Ji Yong Park

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49

Francisco Camacho
Justin Poon
Hee Jin Cho
Christian Tudela
Yeo Jin Lee
Jonelie Torres
Sabina Calvo

8TH GRADE**"A" Honor 3.5-3.99**

Momoko Nishikido
Jodel Fernandez

Mindy Song
Jian Joyner
Yuri Song

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49

Soo Jin Choi
Kaithlin Hidalgo
Almond Legaspi
Jireh Huang
Zachary Sablan
Tae Ho Won
Erica Garcia
Hannah Choi
Woo Suk Chang
Hyun Jae Cho
Kevin Park

NMC gets 10K for WWII ordnance research

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College recently obtained a \$10,000 donation from local firm All-Hazard Management Professionals, AMPRO, to extensively investigate and chronicle the effects of unexploded World War II ordnances in the CNMI.

According to NMC, the donated funds will enable the school to hire students who can undertake the field research necessary to identify and locate photographic evidence of persons injured or killed as a result of coming into contact with unexploded World War II munitions.

Students will also be involved in documenting oral histories from people who have either been victims of accidental detonations or inhalation of fumes from damaged projectiles.

The findings of all the studies will be used as a basis for a plan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, center, and History instructor Sam McPhetres, right, accept a \$10,000 donation from John Scott, owner and CEO of AMPRO. The donated funds will be used for field research dealing with unexploded ordnances from World War II.

to remove World War II bombs and other explosives that pose a danger to the CNMI population and visiting tourists.

AMPRO is a service support

company providing specialized consulting services in support of hazardous material, disaster preparedness and safety related projects.

They also deal with the disposition of unexploded ordnance and toxic waste, including trading of UXO units throughout Micronesia.

"We are extremely thankful for AMPRO's generosity in funding this important project," said NMC president Dr.

Carmen Fernandez.

She said the funds provide a "considerable boost to the long

term aim of identifying and ultimately eliminating all harmful, unexploded ordnance in the CNMI."

NMC History instructor Sam McPhetres said the students have already found viable materials in the Historic Preservation Office, the CNMI Archives, the Emergency Management Office, and the American Memorial Park Visitor Center.

Under his direction, "The students will also be interviewing those who are aware of accidental deaths resulting from post war contact with World War II munitions," McPhetres said.

Part of the community awareness involved with the project will be the compilation of a five-minute video, which will be

shown at a national conference on toxic waste that is slated for May 2008. A full-length documentary will be produced later.

The final product of the students' research work will be handed over to the Department of Public Lands, which is the lead agency coordinating the Brownsfields project for the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Other departments that are part of the project include the Division of Environmental Quality.

NMC is calling on all CNMI residents who wish to participate in the oral interview portion of the study to contact Sam McPhetres at 234-5498 or by email at samuelm@nmcnet.edu.

Public lecture on WWII on Friday

The NMI Council for the Humanities invites the public to attend a lecture by World War II veteran Ray "Hap" Halloran titled "Time Heals Everything...Almost" at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park, Friday, April 18, at 6:30pm.

Halloran will discuss his experiences as a crewmember of Rover Boys Express, a Saipan-based B-29 bomber during World War II.

"Time Heals Everything" will cover combat missions Halloran flew from Isley Field (now Saipan International Airport), the destruction of his plane over Tokyo in January 1945, and the subsequent eight months he spent as a POW in Japan.

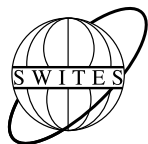
The lecture will also describe Halloran's return to Japan in 1984, during which he visited

many Japanese cities, and his emotional meeting the following year with the Japanese pilot who had shot down Halloran's plane 40 years earlier.

It was through these visits that Halloran was able to reconcile with his former enemies

and bring closure (almost) to a traumatic period in his life.

The lecture is open to the public and free of charge. Interested individuals are invited to contact Council staff at telephone 235-4785 for additional details. (PR)



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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter
Of The Petition To
Appoint General
Guardianship For:

**K.J.G.C. and
F.X.G.C.,
Minor Children,**

By:

JOSEPH TENORIO
GUERRERO and
VICTORIA TUDELA
GUERRERO,
Petitioners.

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for a hearing
on April 28, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in
Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge
Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 8th day of April,
2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Retirement Fund Building, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Board Committees
 - i. CIA
 - ii. CIP
 - iii. FPA
 - iv. LIA
 - v. School Reform
 - c. Commissioner
 - d. Teacher Representative
 - e. Non-Public School Representative
 - f. Student Representative
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Update on PSS FY'08 Budget
- V. New Business
 - a. Approval of LIA Committee recommendations/comments re: the following proposed legislations:
 - i. HLI 16-9
 - ii. HB 16-14
 - iii. HB 16-41
 - iv. HB 16-50
 - v. HB 16-54
 - b. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Private School
- VI. Executive Session²
 - a. Legal Counsel's Report
 - b. Personnel
 - i. Rota High School petition matter
 - ii. BOE Personnel matter
 - c. Other matters
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- IX. Adjournment

¹Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each and related to issues on the agenda.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
ASIAN ISLAND	007E	4/5 SAT	4/3 THU	3/24 MON	4/10 THU	3/25 TUE	3/29 SAT	4/11 FRI	4/7 MON	4/6 SUN	4/1 TUE	3/23 SUN	4/7 MON	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	015E	4/12 SAT	4/10 THU	3/31 MON	4/17 THU	4/1 TUE	4/5 SAT	4/18 FRI	4/14 MON	4/13 SUN	4/8 TUE	3/30 SUN	4/14 MON	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT
MELL SENOKO	003E	4/19 SAT	4/17 THU	4/7 MON	4/24 THU	4/8 TUE	4/12 SAT	4/25 FRI	4/21 MON	4/20 SUN	4/15 TUE	4/6 SUN	4/21 MON	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	4/26 SAT	4/24 THU	4/14 MON	5/1 THU	4/15 TUE	4/19 SAT	5/2 FRI	4/28 MON	4/27 SUN	4/22 TUE	4/13 SUN	4/28 MON	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/3 SAT	5/1 THU	4/21 MON	5/8 THU	4/22 TUE	4/26 SAT	5/9 FRI	5/5 MON	5/4 SUN	4/29 TUE	4/20 SUN	5/5 MON	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/10 SAT	5/8 THU	4/28 MON	5/15 THU	4/29 TUE	5/3 SAT	5/16 FRI	5/12 MON	5/11 SUN	5/6 TUE	4/27 SUN	5/12 MON	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	007E	SKIP	SKIP	SKIP	SKIP	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/6 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/7 WED
STADT HAMBURG	015E	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/26 SAT	SKIP	4/30 WED	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/13 TUE	5/14 WED
MELL SENOKO	003E	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/7 WED	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/20 TUE	5/21 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/10 SAT	SKIP	5/14 WED	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/27 TUE	5/28 WED
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/21 WED	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/30 FRI	5/30 FRI	6/3 TUE	6/3 TUE	6/4 WED
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/24 SAT	SKIP	5/28 WED	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/6 FRI	6/6 FRI	6/10 TUE	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED

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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 107

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Papal opportunity

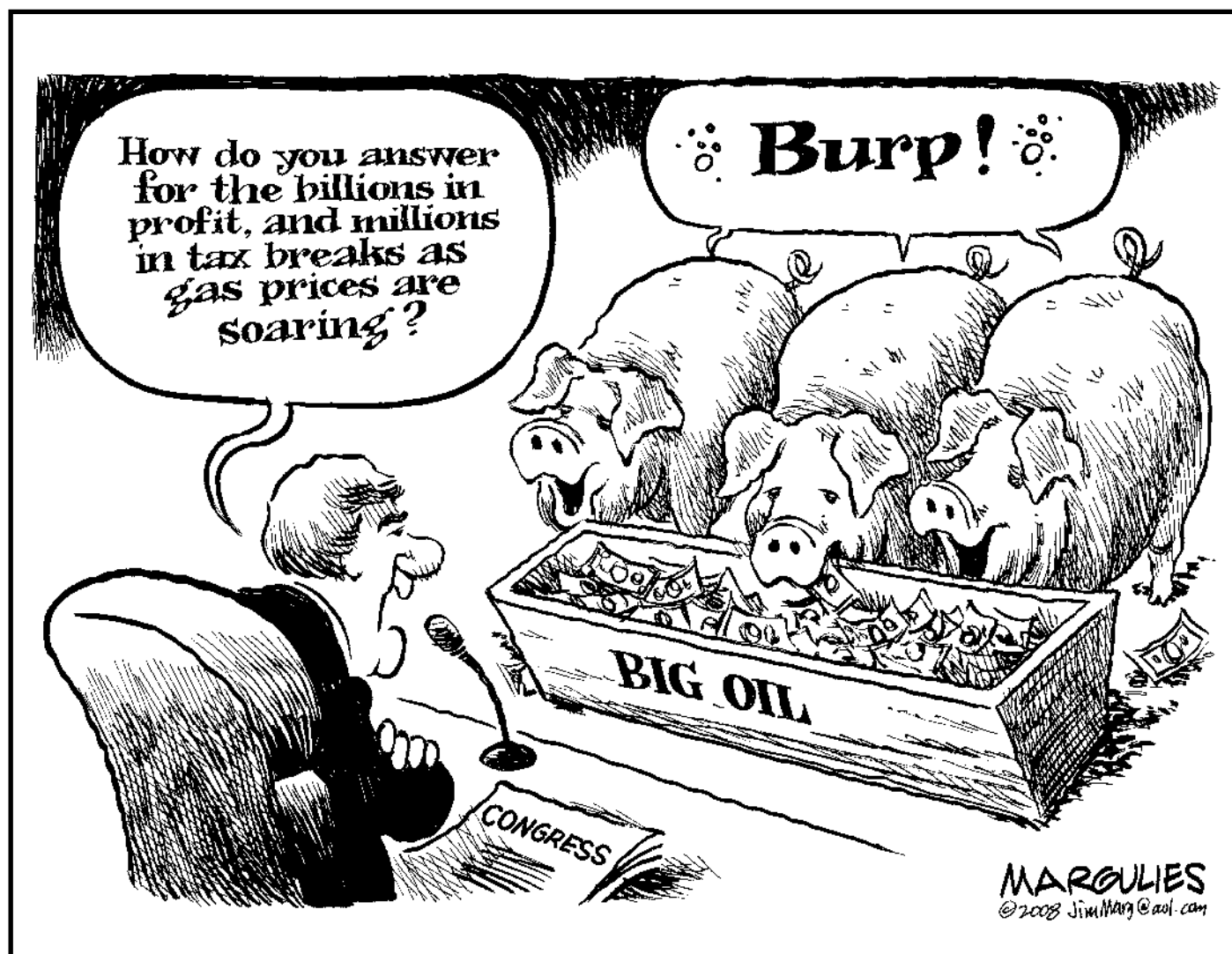
This week's visit to the United States by Pope Benedict XVI—his first as pontiff—is sure to focus attention on some of the thornier problems confronting the church. Topping the list are high-profile issues such as lingering wounds of the sex abuse scandal, disaffected American churchgoers and the departure of Catholic educators from church doctrine. We hope, though, that Pope Benedict finds time to address another crisis—that of the nation's Catholic schools. Dramatic action is needed if these valuable institutions of learning are to survive.

The plight of urban Catholic schools was highlighted by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation in a report timed to coincide with the papal visits to Washington and New York. More than 1,300 Catholic schools have closed since 1990, victims of changing demographics and economics. The result has been some 300,000 students displaced at an estimated cost to taxpayers of more than \$20 billion. The more critical issue is that vast numbers of these children—mainly poor and minority—have been forced into troubled public schools; their chances for success have been compromised. The foundation's Michael J. Petrilli is right to call it a tragedy. "At the very time when all of us are struggling with how to create good schools in the inner city," he told Education Week, "we have good schools in the inner city that are closing down."

The pope is due to address educators from Catholic schools and universities on Thursday. Days later, the White House will host a conference on inner-city "faith-based schools." The District of Columbia is the perfect setting for this discourse as its parochial schools present a good picture of the problems as well as glimpses of possible solutions. Because of enormous financial losses, the Washington archdiocese said it could no longer operate eight schools. That the schools stayed open for as long as they did is a credit to the church's commitment to disadvantaged students, many of whom are not Catholic. Indeed, it is because of concern for these children that the church is trying to convert seven of them to public charter schools, rather than shutting them down. The schools, of course, will have to be stripped of their core Catholic identity, but parents in overwhelming numbers prefer conversion over closure because they know the schools do a good job educating their children.

Washington's ongoing experiment is one of the ideas cited by Fordham researchers in their call to action to save Catholic schools. There are others, such as an effort to encourage tithing in Wichita, Kan., that has made the schools free to all Catholics and the growth of independent school networks such as the Chicago-based Cristo Rey high schools. The experiences of these places show the problems are solvable when there is leadership from on high.

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Welcome USS Columbus and Ingraham

Last week we welcomed the USS *Curtis* to our fair shores and this week it is the US Navy fast attack Submarine USS *Columbus* SSN 776 and the Frigate USS *Ingraham* FFG61 that are stopping by for a few days' rest and recreation for their hardworking officers and crew. U.S. military personnel like to come here to enjoy our beautiful weather, fine beaches, great food, friendly people, historic sights and many fun things to see and do. Plus it is a safe place to take liberty and it is a very "military friendly" place to spend some quality time ashore.

Once again we should thank the crew of the USNS *Safeguard* for working to remove those impediments in our shipping channel, which were keeping large deep draft ships from entering our port. Now that the channel is clear, many more U.S. Navy and other large ships will be calling on Saipan for much deserved liberty calls.

We welcome you all to Saipan and hope you enjoy your stay in the enchanting CNMI!

■ ■ ■

Human lottery

There was a Reuters article in the paper some days ago relating the story of how within hours of the opening of the application period for workers H visas, the U.S. Immigration Department was "flooded" with more than three times the number of applicants for the available slots to be filled.

Manufacturing associations in the U.S. point out that the system currently in place is woefully inadequate to keep the U.S. competitive with the rest of the world because it allows too few skilled foreign workers to be hired. The U.S. system allows for only 65,000 worker slots in a country of 300 million people and millions of private businesses. They actually hold a random drawing, a lottery, to choose who will have a job and who will not be allowed in.

This has been a problem in the U.S. for a long while and appears to have no solution in sight even though it is in their best interest to correct it. The political will to change the system is just not there. Congressmen fear for their re-election hopes if they allow more foreign workers to come into the country.

It makes me wonder just how receptive this same group of U.S. politicians and bureaucratic agency staffers will be to carefully balancing our labor needs here in the CNMI if they take over the system. According to some sources, we need about 20,000 workers here, many skilled, many not. Do you think the politicians 10,000 miles away and far out of sight will really care how we fare out here? Do you think that any three or four of the 91 senators that just voted to have the U.S. system take over out here could even find Saipan on a map, much less be bothered to see that Immigration regulations to be drafted by the Homeland Security folks will really address our needs? When they don't care enough to solve the same problem in their own backyard do you think they will go out of their

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@ptic.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



way to see to it that the problem is solved here in the CNMI 10,000 miles over the lonely horizon? I seriously doubt it.

I would not want to be a foreign national guest worker under contract here if the crazed Senate committee staffer (Stayman) and two obsessed US congresspersons (Miller and Pelosi) finally get their way and the CNMI's labor and immigration laws are superceded by the uncaring cadre over in Washington D.C. It looks to me like most will be going back to their home countries whether they want to or not. With about 19,000 guest workers remaining here and 15 or 20 thousand already gone back home, that means that once the U.S. system is put into place some 3,800 workers will have to leave the CNMI each year in order to reach the goal of zero workers remaining that U.S. immigration wants to achieve five years after they take over. Will you be one of the ones "chosen" to leave next year? Will they do it by "lottery"? Will you draw or be issued a number and have your fate determined by blind luck the way they do it in the U.S. right now? Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration will have to come up with some way of removing all those workers. What is your best guess about how they will do it?

Maybe we don't really need 20,000 contract workers here; I can't say one way or another. It appears we are about to find out as they begin to be sent home by the thousands by the U.S. Immigration system they themselves have marched in "unity" to see put into place. If that is not ironic, I don't know what is.

■ ■ ■

Veterans clinic on Saipan?

A friend of mine who, like me, is a veteran of the U.S. military has suggested something that would be of great help to all military veterans and other military personnel here. He learned that by registering ourselves, one and all, with the VA Office up on Capital Hill we might reach that critical tipping point of having sufficient numbers of potential users to have a veterans medical clinic be installed right here in the CNMI. That would remove some pressure from CHC and vets would not have to travel to Guam for simple check ups and other procedures.

See WELCOME on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

When the lights go out

Adaptation and opportunity in the darkness

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

According to many news reports, we are on the cusp of a recession. Those of us here on Saipan are seeing certain signs of this. Businesses are closing. Gas prices are rising. Electricity is becoming more unreliable. I've spoken to many people who've been here for 10 years or more who believe this particular period is uniquely dire. In light of all this, it might be tempting to join the "woe is me" bandwagon, pick up and flee, or remain and whine, but you're not tuning in to hear me sing any of those songs. If you've read my columns before, then you know I strive to offer alternatives and options, or at the very least a different way of looking at things.

What we know for sure

With that said, here's what we know for sure. We are in transition—or more accurately, we have before us the opportunities of and for transition. In any transition, for sure, some things change, some things stay the same. In any transition, for sure, what results and remains after the transition won't be to everyone's liking. In any transition, for sure, some people will stay, some people will go, and others will arrive. Yes, in any transition, there are always those who will be attracted to what results from the transition, whether those who are here think it is good or bad.

Let's assume, for instance, that trends continue, businesses close, gas prices rise, and electricity continues to be unreliable. There are people for whom this transitioning Saipan will be a welcome change from whatever their current experience is. But I'm not just speaking in strictly economical terms, or of the people for whom life here is better economically than where they're coming from. I'm speaking of people of every economic level the world over. There are people who wish to live "off the grid," for example, for whom unreliable electricity is not a concern. There are people who wish to live off the land for whom restaurant dining and supermarket food shopping is not a concern. There are people who wish to live closer to nature for whom gas prices and vehicular transportation is not a concern, so for these and others the post-transition Saipan might well be a welcome and desirable change. These newcomers will still see a paradise ripe with advantages and opportunity when they arrive.

Remember, the transition of which we speak is not affecting everyone equally. There are people right here in the CNMI who already live off their land, walk or ride bicycles, generate their own power or live without it, cook with butane burners or open flame, make their own oil, or live without air conditioning. This transition is only dire for those who are addicted to certain trappings and lifestyles, and who have expectations that are not in synch with the new reality.

You may think of living without air conditioning as a fate worse than death, but there are those who are doing so who are realizing that their nagging cough, asthma or breathing challenges are greatly improved now that they are not inhaling unnaturally conditioned air. There are those who are finding that the effects of the transition are not only tolerable, but have some benefits. You may, and have every right to personally prefer a CNMI with these trappings, but they are simply preferences—expectations—and as you know, expectations are the only source of unhappiness. You can only be unhappy when your expectations are out of alignment with reality. So how do you get your expectations aligned with reality? You choose to adapt.

Adaptation

It's tempting to gage advancement, define prosperity and rate your worldly success using other people's standards. We have before us,

however, an opportunity to paint a new image of ourselves using the available colors. And how do you do that? You upgrade your belief system, alter your definition of progress, adjust your expectations, expand your tastes, modify your preferences. In other words, you adapt. Now, to help ease the process, here are a few helpful concepts:

- Just because you're not currently prepared for adaptation, doesn't mean it's not an option.
- Just because you're forced to adapt, does not mean you have to resist it.
- Just because adaptation forces you to do without, does not mean it's a bad thing. Much of what we've come to call "normal" represents an over-reliance on things unnatural, and in most cases harmful to ourselves, to others and to the environment, and it wouldn't hurt to question and discard them anyway! (But that's just my opinion!)

Last week I offered that the two most important questions for the majority of humanity are "How shall I survive?," and "Why am I here?"

People are afraid that their survival is at risk if current trends continue, and for sure, that may be true. However, people have survived on these islands for countless generations before there was air con or traffic lights. Can you? What would you do if there were no electricity? What would you do if...?" is the question to answer. Do you know how to prepare a meal without an electric stove or microwave? Do you know how to obtain or make your own coconut oil for use in diesel generators, for cooking, health maintenance or skin protection? As a business owner, do you have a means to generate income that's recession-proof, or, at the very least not 100 percent reliant on local economic conditions? If not, then you may not be prepared for certain aspects of the transition.

As we've noted before, in response to the transition, some will leave and some will stay. Some will view any adaptation as a sign of regression. In other words, because they've been steeped in certain conveniences and ways of life, they view doing homework by candlelight as a step backward. They view cooking without a microwave as a hardship that is beneath them. Some people see these adaptations as assaults on their pride and chosen identity—forcing them to live in ways they have always associated with "third world" countries.

What good may come

But, for those who stay, there can always be good that is extracted from even the most dire situation. Let's speculate for a moment, and present a hypothetical and entertain some of the good that may come as a result of this transition...

- Perhaps there will be a return to ways of living that are more sustainable and more natural.
- Perhaps people will consume products produced locally rather than internationally.
- Perhaps entrepreneurs will start businesses that sell globally in addition to locally thus becoming less dependent on local conditions.
- Perhaps people will barter more and trade what they have and what they can do for the things and services they want.
- Perhaps people may start to grow their own food more, make their own sea salt, coconut oil, etc.
- Perhaps people may start to car pool or use mopeds, bicycles or, heaven forbid, walk to work!
- Perhaps others will add to this list and start to focus on adaptation rather than aggravation.

OPPORTUNITY

Along with these potential adaptations to the transition, comes something else quite unique for the entrepreneur. That thing is opportunity. Instead of railing against the winds of change and naming them "bad," savvy entrepreneurs decide to succeed because of the current situation.

So what's going to happen? Where's the opportunity? Where's the silver lining in all of this? According to a post on blogbusiness-

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

world.blogspot.com:

"The first thing for an entrepreneur to do, when considering business prospects for harder times, is think of what needs may emerge. Recessions mean lower employment levels, difficulty in personal and company bill paying, lower numbers of customers, foreclosures of homes and businesses, and a trend to cutting operating and capital costs. All of these scenarios present business opportunities for an entrepreneur. They are not simply profits from preying on hardship either; but are very often business and credit savers for others."

People are looking for cheaper alternatives so they can maintain some semblance of the lifestyle to which they've grown accustomed. Not just here on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, but as the worldwide economy feels the effects of the US slide, entrepreneurs are looking for ways to meet the new needs that are arising.

In order to generate income, people are lending money, and of course, following their passions. According to author and internet expert Scott Fox, "The key to finding the right new business is to combine a person's skills, interests, and hobbies to target the right group of customers with in-demand products and services that will help them solve their problems in a cost-effective manner."

To find a business idea, take a look at the "What Good May Come" section above and rephrase each question from a business provider's perspective (*i.e.* "what products and services can I sell to help people return to ways of living that are more natural and more sustainable?")

When the lights go out

I was in New York City several years ago when electricity all across the northeast United States got shut off. In those few dark hours without power, many New Yorkers, deprived of radio, television, video games, air conditioning, and lights, did an amazing thing: They went outside and talked to their neighbors. Friendships formed, families interacted, and people who lived next door to each other for years finally met. (Of course there were others who saw evil opportunity as well.) The moral is that in the midst of darkness there is always some benefit that can be extracted.

Some people may read this and see an extreme or impractical response to the situation here in the CNMI. At the same time, others here may have lived lives of adaptation and opportunity for as long as they can remember, and are already psychologically prepared for whatever may come. Others have no idea what they will do, and simply hope things won't get as bad as they fear.

Regardless of what you think about my outlook and perspectives, if you're here when or if the lights do go out, you really only have two choices. You can sit in the dark and curse the darkness, or you can sit in the dark, enjoy the beauty of the Saipan night and the take the opportunity to count the stars.

Questions to help with the transition

Meanwhile, it is true that these times are presenting you an opportunity to redefine yourself, your purpose, why you are here, and what next to make of your life. Here then, are some questions to help you gain clarity in the midst of the transition and see what adaptations and opportunities are in your stars that shine in the darkness.

1. What are the elements and assets and opportunities that are swirling around in my life now that might figure into my future?
2. Given that we live in a supportive universe that ALWAYS brings to me my greatest dreams and opportunities, why is this happening to me/us now?
3. What opportunity is this presenting to me/us that I/we have been asking for in my/our hearts?
4. What lesson am I learning through all of this?

See **WHEN** on Page 13

WELCOME

From Page 10

Ruth Coleman, our Military and Veterans Affairs Office director, thinks that there may be as many as 1,000 U.S. military veterans here on the island. No one knows for sure because many, like me, have not registered themselves as resident veterans.

Ruth will welcome the opportunity to help you register with the VA and with the local M&VAO. I understand it is a simple procedure and one that does not require a lot of time. Veterans need to drag out a copy of that DD214 and bring it along to the Saipan office up on the Hill in building number 1362 on Anatahan Drive, phone 664-2650.

Please note that Memorial Day is just around the corner and there is a

meeting each Tuesday morning at 9am at the M&VA office to organized and prepare for the events that will take place on that important holiday. If you have some time on your hands and can be of help, please volunteer. Because of government cut backs, Ruth has many responsibilities and no one on staff to assist her. Please contact her as above. Any assistance will be gratefully accepted.

One last scheduling note: on Thursday, April 24, at 1pm, representatives from the Guam Veterans Center will arrive on island to provide private counseling for any and all combat veterans and their spouses. These sessions will be held at the Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico and are, of course, free of charge.

■ ■ ■






Instead of a Quote of the Week this

week, I will give you a reminder instead: The 4th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby will be held this weekend. Sign up to participate or just come out to enjoy the daily weigh-ins and the family-style gathering that takes place. Registration is Friday evening at Smiling Cove Marina. The Derby is on Saturday, all day. Bring beer and a chair. You might get to taste some fresh mahi sashimi.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

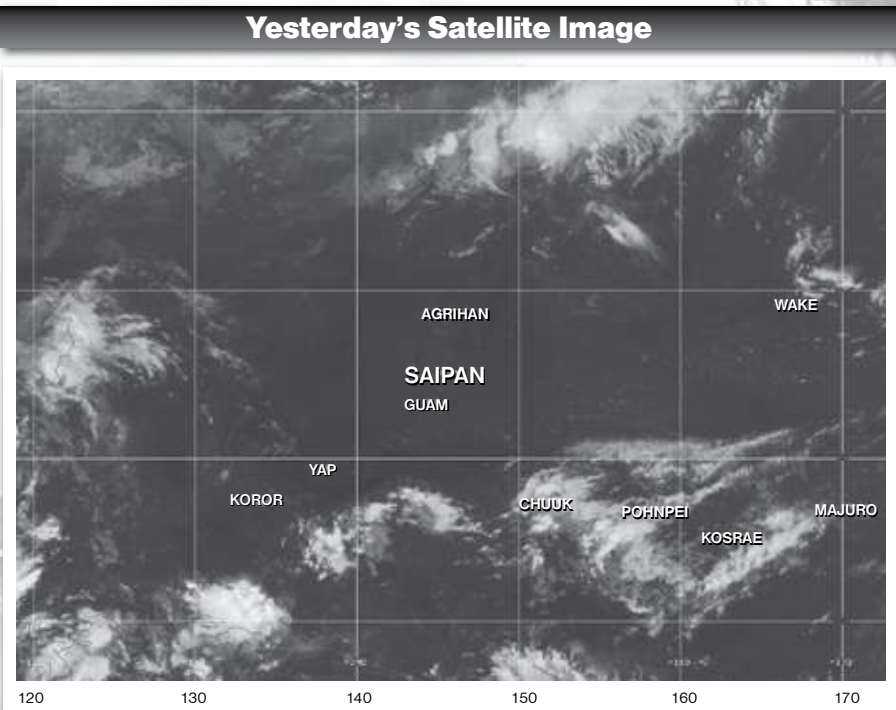
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲81° ▼75°	▲83° ▼75°	▲82° ▼74°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼73
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼73

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼62
Beijing	Cloudy	▲77 ▼53
Hong Kong	Showers	▲87 ▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲52 ▼38
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲75 ▼55
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲70 ▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼64
New York	Sunny	▲68 ▼47
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼53
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲53 ▼37
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼58
Rome	Cloudy	▲63 ▼47
Salem	Cloudy	▲55 ▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64 ▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲71 ▼47
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼54
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲69 ▼45

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
5:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:39AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
4:59PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:30PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation in the southwest corner of the discussion area is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line that runs from 2N130E to 2N135E. The southern boundary of this area is south of the equator. Trade wind convergence and a weak circulation centered at 3N140E is producing scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 3N137E to 7N145E. This area is southeast of Yap and Palau. Trade wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 8N151E to 2N161E to 6N167E. This area of scattered showers is affecting Chuuk and runs south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Kwajalein. An upper level low east of Wake island is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 20N167E to the dateline at 20N.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:02AM	6:32PM	Today	3:10PM	3:07AM
Thursday	6:02AM	6:32PM	Thursday	3:59PM	3:43AM
Friday	6:01AM	6:32PM	Friday	4:47PM	4:18AM
Saturday	6:00AM	6:32PM	Saturday	5:35PM	4:53AM
Sunday	6:00AM	6:32PM	Sunday	6:23PM	5:28AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota		Rota-Saipan	
CO 9313	8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam		Guam-Saipan	
CO9317	4:00am 4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm 1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm 4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm 7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita		Narita-Saipan	
NW 078	8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya	NW 076	10:15am 2:50pm Daily
NW 075	4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka		Osaka-Saipan	
NW 083	4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya		Nagoya-Saipan	
NW 078	8:40am 11:25am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila		Manila-Saipan	
CO 895	4:45pm 6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am 2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm 8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul		Seoul-Saipan	
OZ 604	2:20am 6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan		Busan-Saipan	
OZ 608	3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila		Manila-Guam	
CO 891	6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am 4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am 8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm 1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am 10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm 8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou		Guanzhou-Saipan	
CZ 3008	5:00am 8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong		Hongkong-Guam	
CO 909	6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota		Rota-Guam	
CO 9598	10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE			
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Report on power plant tour, current crisis

On Friday we received a call at around 9:30am from CUC's Executive Director's Office informing us that the executive director would like to take us on a tour of the power plant facility at 1:30pm. We accepted the last-minute tour, which was actually scheduled for Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 1:30pm. The tour guides were Mr. Tony Guerrero, Mr. Almando Santos, plant manager; and Mr. Matt Chargualaf, safety officer, while Taotao Tano was represented by myself and Mr. John Salas, board member. A brief history of the power plant was given, including safety measures, and homeland security issues under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard.

We were also briefed on the layout of all engine locations and ongoing repairs and rehabilitations being conducted. Currently we have eight engines and they are as follows

Engines No. 5, 6, 7, 8 are the large engines capable of producing 13 megawatts per unit.

Engines No. 1, 2, 3, 4 are smaller engines that produce 7 megawatts per unit

Currently there are four engines in operation: Engine No. 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Engine No. 8 is now being commissioned after being down for over two years due to major mechanical failures. Test run for the past two weeks have been conducted to ensure that engine is capable of taking on a load and hopefully the power plant would be able to add load by this week. The engine will generate an additional 9 megawatts of output power generation.

Engine No. 1: A new crankshaft is scheduled to be installed within the week by a Contractor called MAN GERMANY.

Currently there is contract of \$5,006,479 awarded to DCM Group, a Guam-based contractor with partner EEI Corp. from the Philippines for the repair and rehabilitation of seven engines.

We have grave concerns on security issues and contracts

awarded and they are as follows:

■ Security: Security Guards are posted around the outside perimeters but none inside, given the fact that the power plant is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard, a federal agency responsible for homeland security issues for CUC. There are no surveillance camera systems to monitor activities within the power plant, especially near and around engines.

■ Recently the Administration's public information officer, Mr. Charles Reyes, had reported that repair and rehabilitation work being performed had reached nearly \$10 million. But the signed contract agreement for repair and rehabilitation contract between the Governor, CUC and DCM Group for all seven engines is just for \$5,006,479.

■ We feel that tackling seven engines all at one time for the amount awarded is costly. The proponents behind contracts to repair and rehabilitate engines should have concentrated on the least troubled engines to obtain maximum results and not all seven at one time.

■ We have questions on the integrity of such contracts under the emergency declaration signed by the Governor on Dec. 12, 2007. Questions such why was there no RFP bidding? Who and what is the affiliation between the Governor/Lt. Governor and the contractor DCM Group in partnership with EEI?

■ The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s current condition with our power plant is a result of past mismanagements and lack of proper preventive maintenance that had led to the detriment of public service to the community.

■ The Administration's stance on the current conditions of our power plant is unjust since both the Governor and Lt. Governor are from the past, the Governor being a Speaker of the House and the Lt. Governor being the executive director for CUC. We

believe that our public utilities corporation has been a target of political agendas to include self-interest in the past years.

Today we face a huge emergency crisis that is beyond realm. We are facing additional costly repairs and rehabilitation on a power plant that had been a victim of politics and greed of past upper management, boards and politicians. Let it be known that we people of the Commonwealth are now being oppressed into a full privatization of CUC, which we the Taotao Tano strongly oppose. We the people of the Commonwealth should be involved on every aspect of the privatization plan.

We the people of the Commonwealth demand a public hearing on all RFPS being submitted for the privatization of CUC. We the people of the Commonwealth are fed up with the past mismanagements of our public utilities for ultimately we the consumers, taxpayers and voters in the Commonwealth pay the price. Personal self-interest and greed had led us all, the suffering community, into the current crisis we now face.

We, the people of the Commonwealth, should take control and aggressively monitor all government agencies' performances with regard to public services and hold each and everyone in charge accountable.

Our silence will continue to lead us to our own detriment and that of our future generations to come if we the people of the Commonwealth do not act immediately to rectify the situation. It is time to act now and not later for the suffering of all in the community is crystal clear. Our Commonwealth leaders in the past have all failed us, to include the current administration, which is asking for four more years, and some members of our legislative branch who had been part of the past and are also seeking re-election soon.

Gregorio Cruz
Taotao Tano

WHEN

From Page 11

5. What hints have I received in the past six months of some hidden value that I have in my possession that others have noticed—something that I may use to generate income?

6. What expertise or experience can I sell to people through the Internet?

7. What aspect of my being is now being given the chance to flourish?

8. What would I like to see happen next?

9. If this were an opportunity to head in a completely different direction in my life and redefine myself free of all contracts, commitments, job skills and others' expectations of me, what

would I do next?

10. Where can I buy some candles?

For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

SaipanLiving Update:

Visit the SaipanLiving.com website to see our growing list of actual questions being asked by people all over the world who want to know what life on Saipan is really like! Choose one to answer to help with our launch!

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top ten, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like in our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at questions@saipanliving.com.

If you don't have an email account, you can fax it to my attention at 212 658 9232.

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Business

Food costs rising fastest in 17 years

By ELLEN SIMON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Steve Tarpin can bake a graham cracker crust in his sleep, but explaining why the price for his Key lime pies went from \$20 to \$25 required mastering a thornier topic: global economics.

He recently wrote a letter to his customers and posted it near the cash register listing the factors—dairy prices driven higher by conglomerates buying up milk supplies, heat waves in Europe and California, demand from emerging markets and the weak dollar.

The owner of Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pies in Brooklyn said he didn't want customers thinking he was "jacking up prices because I have a unique product."

"I have to justify it," he said.

The U.S. is wrestling with the worst food inflation in 17 years, and analysts expect new data due on Wednesday to show it's getting worse. That's putting the squeeze on poor families and forcing bakeries, bagel shops and delis to explain price increases to their customers.

U.S. food prices rose 4 percent in 2007, compared with an average 2.5 percent annual rise



Owner Sam Iliawat talks with a customer at his Wonder Bagels store in Jersey City, N.J., Monday, April 14, 2008. Iliawat recently posted a letter from the store's wheat supplier to help explain the increases in food prices to his customers.

for the last 15 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the agency says 2008 could be worse, with a rise of as much as 4.5 percent.

Higher prices for food and energy are again expected to play a leading role in pushing the government's consumer price index higher for March.

Analysts are forecasting that Wednesday's Department of Labor report will show the Consumer Price Index rose at a 4 percent annual rate in the first three months of the year, up from last year's overall rise of 2.8 percent.

For the U.S. poor, any increase in food costs sets up an

either-or equation: Give something up to pay for food.

"I was talking to people who make \$9 an hour, talking about how they might save \$5 a week," said Kathleen DiChiara, president and CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. "They really felt they couldn't. That was before. Now, they have to."

Gas prices could pass \$3.50 in weeks

NEW YORK (AP)—Gas prices fluctuated over the weekend but appear poised to resume their seemingly relentless trek toward a record high milestone of an average \$3.50 a gallon. Forecasts call for gas to peak as high as \$3.65 within a month.

Oil prices, meanwhile, rose to a record settlement and later hit an intraday trading record in Asia as the dollar fell and crude supplies were disrupted in the U.S. and overseas.

At the pump, the national average price of a gallon of gas edged lower overnight to \$3.373 a gallon, 0.1 cent shy of a new record set Sunday, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Still, prices are 0.8 cent higher than Friday, and almost 53 cents higher than a year ago.

Blockbuster offers to buy Circuit City

DALLAS (AP)—Blockbuster Inc., which has been busy trying to fix its own movie-rental business, is making a hostile takeover bid of just over \$1 billion for Circuit City Stores Inc. with dreams of creating a huge chain that would sell electronic gadgets and rent movies and games.

The offer is larger than Blockbuster's entire stock market value, but Chief Executive James Keyes said he was confident his company can swing the deal

The Energy Department recently predicted gas prices could average as much as \$3.60 a month this summer, and said the daily national average could rise as high as \$4 a times. Prices are already over \$4 in some parts of the country.

But a growing number of analysts don't believe the national average will rise that high unless something unanticipated occurs.

"I don't think so, unless there is some sort of outage or refinery event," said Fred Rozell, retail pricing director at the Oil Price Information Service.

Indeed, barring such an event, prices could fall back to \$3 a gallon, or lower, by late summer, said Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates, an energy consultancy in Galena, Ill.

and that the move has the support of one of his board members, financier Carl Icahn, who could help with financing.

Icahn, Blockbuster's largest shareholder, did not return calls for comment.

Keyes said combining the companies would create a 9,300-store chain that could sell portable devices and entertainment for them, much like Apple Inc.'s stores. The larger Circuit City stores would have movie-rental stores inside, and

For some, that means adding an extra cup of water to their soup, watering down their milk, or giving their children soda because it's cheaper than milk, DiChiara said.

U.S. households still spend a smaller chunk of their expenses for foods than in any other country—7.2 percent in 2006, according to the USDA. By contrast, the figure was 22 percent in Poland and more than 40 percent in Egypt and Vietnam.

In Bangladesh, economists estimate 30 million of the country's 150 million people could be going hungry. Haiti's prime minister was ousted over the weekend following food riots there.

Still, the higher U.S. prices seem eye-popping after years of low inflation. Eggs cost 25 percent more in February than they did a year ago, according to the USDA. Milk and other dairy products jumped 13 percent, chicken and other poultry nearly 7 percent.

USDA economist Ephraim Leibtag explained the jumps in a recent presentation to the Food Marketing Institute, starting with the factors everyone knows about: sharply higher commodity costs for wheat, corn, soybeans and milk, plus higher energy and transportation costs.

"Take your vacation late this year," said Ritterbusch, who believes prices will dip to those lows in July or August.

Still, unexpected refinery outages have forced pump price spikes in the past. Last spring, a string of unanticipated refinery outages caused gas prices to peak at record levels in May. Prices then mostly fell until late in the year, when they began to track crude oil higher.

Prices normally rise in the spring as suppliers stock up in advance of peak summer driving season, and as refiners switch over from making winter grade gasoline to the more expensive, but less polluting, summer version of the fuel. As they perform this switch, refiners try to sell off all of their winter grade fuel, driving overall supplies down.

Blockbuster locations would offer a limited selection of electronics.

News of Blockbuster's bid for Circuit City, valued at up to \$1.35 billion, sent the struggling retailer's shares up 27 percent on Monday. Blockbuster shares fell.

Circuit City, the nation's second biggest consumer electronics chain, said it doubted Blockbuster could finance the deal and has resisted opening its books.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

	AUSTRALIA 5,477.30 Up 66.40 (+1.23%)
	HONG KONG 23,730.00 Down 81.20 (-0.34%)
	JAKARTA 2,281.85 Up 9.37 (+0.41%)
	TOKYO 13,043.00 Up 125.49 (+0.97%)
	K. LUMPUR 1,233.43 Down 13.36 (-1.07%)
	MANILA 2,903.18 Down 15.09 (-0.52%)
	SINGAPORE 3,051.09 Up 8.13 (+0.27%)
	SEOUL 1,744.48 Down 2.23 (-0.13%)
	BANGKOK 594.56 Up 4.82 (+0.82%)

LEADING INDICATORS

	DOW 12,302.06 -0.19%
	NASDAQ 2,275.82 -0.63%
	S&P 1,328.32 -0.34%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0769
British Pound	0.5066
Canadian Dollar	1.0192
Chinese Renmbi	6.9968
Euro	0.6319
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7939
Indian Rupee	39.985
Indonesian Rupiah	9,195.5
Japanese Yen	101.355
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1625
New Zealand Dollar	1.2633
Philippine Peso	41.757
Singapore Dollar	1.357
South Korean Won	983.9
Swiss Franc	1.0004
Taiwan Dollar	30.275
Thailand Baht	31.55

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Retail sales up a bit, led by gas costs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers, beset by a credit crunch, rising energy and food costs and a prolonged housing slump, boosted spending only slightly in March. The gain reflected soaring gasoline costs rather than any real strength in demand, however. The Commerce Department reported Monday that retail sales edged up 0.2 percent in March after a 0.4 percent decline in February. However, without a 1.1 percent jump in sales at gasoline service stations, retail sales would have been flat last month. Economists said the March report did nothing to dispel their worries that the country has either toppled into a recession or is very close to a downturn as households have been battered by a series of blows and now are facing rising layoffs.

Stocks end lower amid earnings concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks finished a quiet session moderately lower Monday as investors grappled with concerns about the health of corporate profits after Wachovia Corp. posted disappointing quarterly results. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 23.36, or 0.19 percent, to 12,302.06. Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 4.51, or 0.34 percent, to 1,328.32, and the technology-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 14.42, or 0.63 percent, to 2,275.82. Declining issues outpaced advancers by about 3 to 2 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 3.42 billion shares, compared with 3.59 billion shares traded Friday.

MGM Mirage fires 400 managers

LAS VEGAS (AP)—MGM Mirage Inc., the largest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip, told more than 400 middle management employees Monday they would be terminated immediately in a cost-saving move, the company said. The decision will save \$75 million annually and came after the company saw weakness since August at its properties, which include Bellagio, MGM Grand, Mirage and Mandalay Bay, spokesman Alan Feldman told The Associated Press. The cutbacks were at the middle-level corporate and property management areas in all departments from marketing to accounting and affected employees in Michigan and Mississippi, though the bulk were in Las Vegas.

Nation

Scientists: Big quake likely in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California faces an almost certain risk of being rocked by a strong earthquake by 2037, scientists said Monday in the first statewide temblor forecast. New calculations reveal there is a 99.7 percent chance a magnitude 6.7 quake or larger will strike in the next 30 years. The odds of such an event are higher in Southern California than Northern California, 97 percent versus 93 percent.

“It basically guarantees it’s going to happen,” said Ned Field, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena and lead author of the report. The 1994 Northridge earthquake under Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley was magnitude 6.7. It killed 72 people, injured more than 9,000 and caused \$25 billion in damage in the metropolitan area. The damage created by an

earthquake depends greatly on where it hits. A 7.1 quake - much stronger than Northridge - hit the Mojave Desert in 1999 but caused only a few injuries and no deaths. California is one of the world’s most seismically active regions. More than 300 faults crisscross the state, which sits atop two of Earth’s major tectonic plates, the Pacific and North American plates. About 10,000 quakes each year rattle Southern Cali-

fornia alone, although most of them are too small to be felt. The analysis is the first comprehensive effort by the USGS, Southern California Earthquake Center and California Geological Survey to calculate earthquake probabilities for the entire state using newly available data. Previous quake probabilities focused on specific regions and used various methodologies that made it difficult to compare.

Mothers of some children forced to leave

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Texas officials who took 416 children from a polygamist retreat into state custody sent many of their mothers away Monday, as a judge and lawyers struggled with a legal and logistical morass in one of the biggest child-custody cases in U.S. history. Of the 139 women who voluntarily left the compound with their children since an April 3 raid, only those with children 4 or younger were allowed to continue staying with them, said Marissa Gonzales, spokeswoman for the state Children’s Protective Services agency. She did not know how many women stayed. “It is not the normal practice to allow parents to accompany the child when an abuse allegation is made,” she said. The women were given a choice: Return to the Eldorado ranch of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a renegade Mormon sect, or go to another safe location. Some women chose the



Marie, a mother of three boys, members of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gets emotional while on the premises of the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Eldorado, Texas, as she responds to questions about their 11-day experience in a shelter in San Angelo, Texas Monday April 14, 2008. latter, Gonzales said. On Monday night, about three dozen women, many of them mothers, sobbed and held onto each other outside a log cabin on the sect’s ranch, recounting the way police officers encircled them in a room and told them that they could not stay. One woman, Marie, said the women weren’t allowed to say goodbye to their crying children.

“They said, ‘your children are ours,’” said the sobbing 32-year-old whose three sons are aged 9, 7 and 5 and who would not give her last name. “We could not even ask a question.” She said the children at the ranch have not been abused, but she feels like “they are being abused from this experience.” She said the children have been “have been so protected and loved.” The women believe the abuse complaint that led to the raid came from a bitter person outside their community. The state is accusing the sect of physically and sexually abusing the youngsters and wants to strip their parents of custody and place the children in foster care or put them up for adoption. The sheer size of the case was an obstacle. “Quite frankly, I’m not sure what we’re going to do,” Texas District Judge Barbara Walther said after a conference that included three to four dozen attorneys either representing or hoping to represent youngsters.

Threats close 3 colleges, 4 more schools

CHICAGO (AP)—A message scrawled in a university bathroom - “Be prepared to die on 4/14” - left not just the college’s campus empty Monday, but also those of two adjoining high schools and a pair of nearby elementary schools. After the precautions were taken at St. Xavier University on the city’s southwest side, Malcolm X College evacuated students and canceled daytime classes Monday after a similar threat was found in a bathroom at the campus west of downtown. And Michigan’s Oakland University was closed Monday because of threatening graffiti mentioning April 14. The closures, two days before the anniversary of the Virginia Tech killings and two months after the deadly rampage at Northern Illinois University, illustrate the challenge such threats pose to school administrators, who have to decide just how seriously to take them.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. voters divided over Obama remarks
SHENANDOAH, Pa. (AP)—Yes, some Democrats in Pennsylvania’s Rust Belt communities were upset by Barack Obama’s suggestion that voters there “cling to guns or religion” because of bitterness about their economic lot. But many more seem to think it was no big deal - and if there’s a problem it’s with the political slapfest that has followed. Obama’s comment, which the Illinois senator made during a San Francisco fundraiser last week, set off an exchange of insults between the final contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination as they vie for blue-collar support in the state’s April 22 primary. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has criticized the comment as “elitist,” while Obama has mocked the New York senator’s own recent emphasis on support for gun owners’ rights.

Pope introduces himself to US this week
NEW YORK (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI arrives late Tuesday for a six-day visit to Washington and New York filled with high-profile events. He will meet President Bush at the White House, address leaders in Roman Catholic higher education, speak at the U.N., visit ground zero and hold two stadium Masses before leaving Sunday night. It will be the first papal visit by Benedict since he was elected in 2005. However, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger - who will celebrate a birthday and the anniversary of his election to the papacy while in the U.S. - traveled to America five times during his many years as the Vatican’s doctrinal watchdog.

Hundreds protest Dalai Lama in Seattle
SEATTLE (AP)—In a showing of pro-Chinese support, hundreds of demonstrators protested outside a college arena Monday as the Dalai Lama spoke to students on solving problems through dialogue. Thousands of people have flocked to Seattle to hear the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader speak since he arrived Thursday for a five-day conference on compassion, but the city’s Chinese community had remained largely silent until Monday. Demonstrators held signs alleging media bias and protesting the violence from rioting by Tibetan monks. Some echoed Beijing’s stand that the Dalai Lama is behind the recent uprising against five decades of Chinese rule.

Iraq’s financial free ride may end
WASHINGTON (AP)—Iraq’s financial free ride may be over. After five years, Republicans and Democrats seem to have found common ground on at least one aspect of the war. From the fiercest foes of the war to the most steadfast Bush supporters, they are looking at Iraq’s surging oil income and saying Baghdad should start picking up more of the tab, particularly for rebuilding hospitals, roads, power lines and the rest of the shattered country. Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, a Democrat, is drafting legislation with Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Evan Bayh of Indiana that would restrict future reconstruction dollars to loans instead of grants. Their bill also would require that Baghdad pay for the fuel used by American troops and take over U.S. payments to predominantly Sunni fighters in the Awakening movement.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Announcement #	Position/Title	Pay Level /Step	Per Annum	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date	Location
PSS-063-2007	EDUCATION SPECIALIST I-IV (CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) & COUNSELING COORDINATOR) (Non-Certified Application) (In-House Promotional Opportunity)	31-35 / 01-12	\$23,706.21-\$49,266.21	Education Specialist I - Applicants with Bachelors degree in Education or Education Administration, plus two (2) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist II - Applicants with Bachelors degree in Education or Education Administration, plus fifteen (15) Graduate Semester Hours plus four (4) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist III - Applicants with Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus five (5) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus fifteen (15) Graduate Semester Hours plus seven (7) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist IV - Applicants with Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus fifteen (15) Graduate Semester Hours plus eight (8) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist V - Applicants with Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists.	April 29, 2008	PSS Associate Commissioner of Education For Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
PSS-2008-021	COMPUTER SPECIALIST III (Erate Network Program Support) (Non-Certified Application) (In-House Promotional Opportunity)	27, 29, 31 / 01-12	\$19,511.46-\$40,531.43	Computer Specialist I - Applicants with BA degree, plus two (2) years work related experience OR High School graduate, plus six (6) years work related experience. Computer Specialist II - Applicants with BA degree, plus three (3) years work related experience OR High School graduate, plus seven (7) years work related experience. Computer Specialist III - Applicants with BA degree, plus five (5) years work related experience OR AA degree, plus seven (7) years work related experience.	April 25, 2008	PSS Administration - Erate Network Program

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX(6) MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #: (670) 237-3064, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Asia

11 policemen killed in Afghanistan attack

MIRANJAN, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants crept through groves of grape vines and pomegranate trees to launch a surprise assault Monday, killing 11 policemen sleeping on a mud floor in southern Afghanistan.

The midnight attack at a small police outpost 15 miles north of Kandahar—the Taliban's former stronghold—was the latest assault against the vulnerable police force.

Insurgents sneaked up on the police checkpoint, killing an officer on the roof of the compound who was supposed to be keeping watch but who may have fallen asleep, said Mohammad Rauf, a policeman sent as a replacement.

The attackers walked into the mud-brick compound and opened fire on officers sleeping on simple mattresses and blankets on the dirt floor, Rauf said.

Of the 12 officers at the compound, 11 were killed and one was seriously wounded, Rauf said.

After the attack, the compound, which is on the road leading from Kandahar to Uruzgan province, was filled with bloodstained blankets and the black shoes the police took off before they went to sleep.

The ambush was the latest in a string of recent attacks on police in the south. Eight policemen were killed Saturday—four while destroying opium poppies in Kandahar and four who were manning a checkpoint in Helmand. Seven police on the poppy-eradication force were killed April 7 in Kandahar.

Militants killed more than 925 Afghan police last year—more than 10 percent of the country's 8,000 insurgency-related deaths documented by the U.N.

Kuwaiti court sentences another Filipina to death

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—A criminal court in Kuwait has convicted a housemaid from the Philippines of murdering her employer's daughter and sentenced her to death, the maid's lawyer said Monday.

Attorney Khalil al-Qattan said Jakatia Pawa was appealing the ruling a criminal court handed to her Sunday. He said it would take around two weeks to get the court's explanation of its ruling. Kuwaiti tribunals routinely do not provide the explanations on the same day they issue decisions.

"There is no evidence she committed the murder," al-Qattan said. Pawa had worked for the family for five years and had no motive to stab to death their 21-year-old daughter, Dalal al-Naqi, as she slept, he added.

"She denied the accusation during the police investigation and in court," the lawyer said. The murder took place in May.

In Manila, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos, who is in charge of migrant workers affairs, said the Philippines was prepared to assist Pawa in appealing the case up to the highest court in Kuwait. Pawa can take her case to the Appeals Court and the Cassation Court, the two levels of appeals here.

Malaysia police halt Anwar speech

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Police cracked down on a rally Monday aimed at celebrating opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's formal return to politics, halting him midway through a speech to an estimated 40,000 supporters.

Anwar was making his first public speech since last month's general elections to jubilant opposition members who had gathered for a countdown until midnight, when a legal ban that prevents Anwar from holding political office expires.

The celebration came to an abrupt halt when about a dozen policemen interrupted Anwar after he had addressed the rally for nearly half an hour and forced him to stop.

Supporters, who carried banners that read, "Anwar for prime minister," jeered the police.

"Let me tell you, we will rule the country someday," Anwar said after the incident. "So we will set a good example to obey the law."

Officials did not immediately explain why they blocked his speech, but authorities had earlier warned they might break up the rally because Anwar's opposition People's Justice Party did not apply for a police permit.

World

British journalist rescued in Basra

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi troops freed a kidnapped British journalist for CBS News on Monday after finding him hooded and bound in a house during a raid in a Shiite militia stronghold in Basra.

Richard Butler's rescue after two months in captivity was a welcome success story for the Iraqi military, which has been strongly criticized for its effort to impose order on Iraq's second-largest city, an oil hub 340 miles southeast of Baghdad.

It came on a day in which at least 37 people were killed or found dead nationwide - half of them in bombings near or in the northwestern city of Mosul.

Roadside bombings killed two U.S. soldiers, one in

Baghdad and the other in the northern Salahuddin province, the military said. At least 4,034 members of the American military have died since the war started in March 2003.

Butler was thin but in good condition and laughing as he was shown on Iraqi state television hugging well-wishers and greeting beaming Iraqi officials.

"Thank you and I'm looking forward to seeing my family and my friends at CBS and thank you again," Butler said.

"I'm pretty weak and I've lost quite a bit of weight," he said later. "I'm looking forward to a decent meal."

Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Askari said the troops were not in fact looking

for Butler. He said an army patrol conducting a sweep of the area responded after coming under fire from the house where he was being held in the Jibiliya neighborhood.

One of the gunmen was wounded in an exchange of fire and another was captured while two men escaped, he said.

When asked by al-Askari on Iraqi television if the Iraqi army was good, Butler said it was "brilliant."

"The Iraqi army stormed the house and overcame my guards and they burst through the door," Butler said. "I had my hood on, which I had to have on all the time, and they shouted something at me and I pulled my hood off."

UN chief: Food crisis is now emergency

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A rapidly escalating global food crisis has reached emergency proportions and threatens to wipe out seven years of progress in the fight against poverty, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned Monday.

He called for short-term emergency measures in many regions to meet urgent food

needs and avoid starvation and urged longer-term efforts to significantly increase production of food grains.

The international community needs "to take urgent and concerted action in order to avoid the larger political and security implications of this growing crisis," Ban told international finance and trade officials who came to a U.N.

meeting following weekend talks in Washington.

Ban's appeal came as President Bush ordered the release of \$200 million in emergency aid to help nations where surging food prices have deepened hunger woes and sparked violent protests. The money will come from a reserve fund known as the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

US friend returns to power in Italy

ROME (AP)—Media billionaire Silvio Berlusconi won a decisive victory Monday in Italy's parliamentary election, setting the colorful conservative and staunch U.S. ally on course to his third stint as premier.

The victory in voting Sunday and Monday by parties supporting the 71-year-old Berlusconi avenged his loss two years ago to a center-left coalition.

"I'm moved. I feel a great responsibility," he said in a phone call to RAI public television while monitoring election results at his villa outside Milan. Italian news agencies said he had a private dinner with key aides.

Berlusconi capitalized on discontent over Italy's stagnating economy and the unpopularity of Romano Prodi's government.

"I think it was a vote against the performance of the Prodi government in the last two years," said Franco Pavecchio, a political science professor at Rome's John Cabot University. "Berlusconi won because he has a strong coalition and because people feel that on the other side, the government is going to take them nowhere."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Maoists extend lead in Nepal election

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's former communist rebels strengthened their lead in early election results Monday, winning a comfortable majority of the constituencies where counting was complete from last week's landmark vote, officials said. The ex-rebels, now known as the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), have won 114 of the 207 seats allocated, the Election Commission said. The remaining 33 races for directly elected seats have not yet been declared. The rebels ended their 10-year insurgency in 2006, but the United States still considers them a terrorist organization. Also Monday, Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat was attacked at a victory rally in his village and suffered minor head injuries.

Factories to shut to clean Beijing's air

BEIJING (AP)—Construction will halt, heavy industries will close, and even spray painting will stop in order to clean Beijing's polluted air for the Olympics—an issue that suddenly has taken a back seat to political protests. An aggressive plan to temporarily shutter belching steel and chemical plants, cut back emissions by 30 percent at 19 heavy-polluting companies and stop excavation and pouring of concrete at hundreds of sites around the city was explained Monday by the city's Environmental Protection Bureau. The measures will be in effect officially for two months, July 20-Sept. 20. Officials also are expected to ban about half of Beijing's 3.3 million vehicles for the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

Pakistan power cuts spark rioting

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—A crowd protesting power cuts rioted Monday in the home city of Pakistan's new prime minister, ransacking the office of the state electricity company, torching a bank and leaving at least 13 people injured. Several hundred men marched on the office of the Water and Power Development Authority in Multan to protest power cuts that the city's textile industry said were killing business. Some protesters stormed the office, dragged furniture into the front yard and set it ablaze along with several motorcycles. About a dozen cars and buses and a nearby bank building were also set on fire.

Cambodia protects endangered bird

STOUNG, Cambodia (AP)—Conservationists in Cambodia think they may be turning the corner in their fight to save one of the world's rarest birds. The Bengal Florican, known in Cambodia as "the whispering bird," is remarkable for a male mating display that amounts to a dance competition to attract a mate. Since 2005, a rush to turn grasslands into large-scale rice farms has gobbled up one-third of the Bengal Florican's habitat in Cambodia, threatening the critically endangered bird with extinction. Most of the world's Bengal Floricans, believed to number less than 1,000, live in scattered pockets on the fringes of Cambodia's Great Lake. The rest are in India, Nepal and Vietnam.



Omani Nasser Darwish carries the Olympic torch Monday, April 14, 2008, through the streets of Muscat, Oman.

Olympic torch in Oman

MUSCAT, Oman (AP)—Thousands cheered and some danced with traditional daggers along the Olympic torch's path through Oman's capital Monday, a festive greeting that contrasted with disrupting protests elsewhere on the flame's global journey.

Under tight security, about 80 torchbearers ferried the flame down into the heart of this hilly Persian Gulf sultanate's capital, passing under historic stone arches and alongside the old souk, before winding along the edge of the

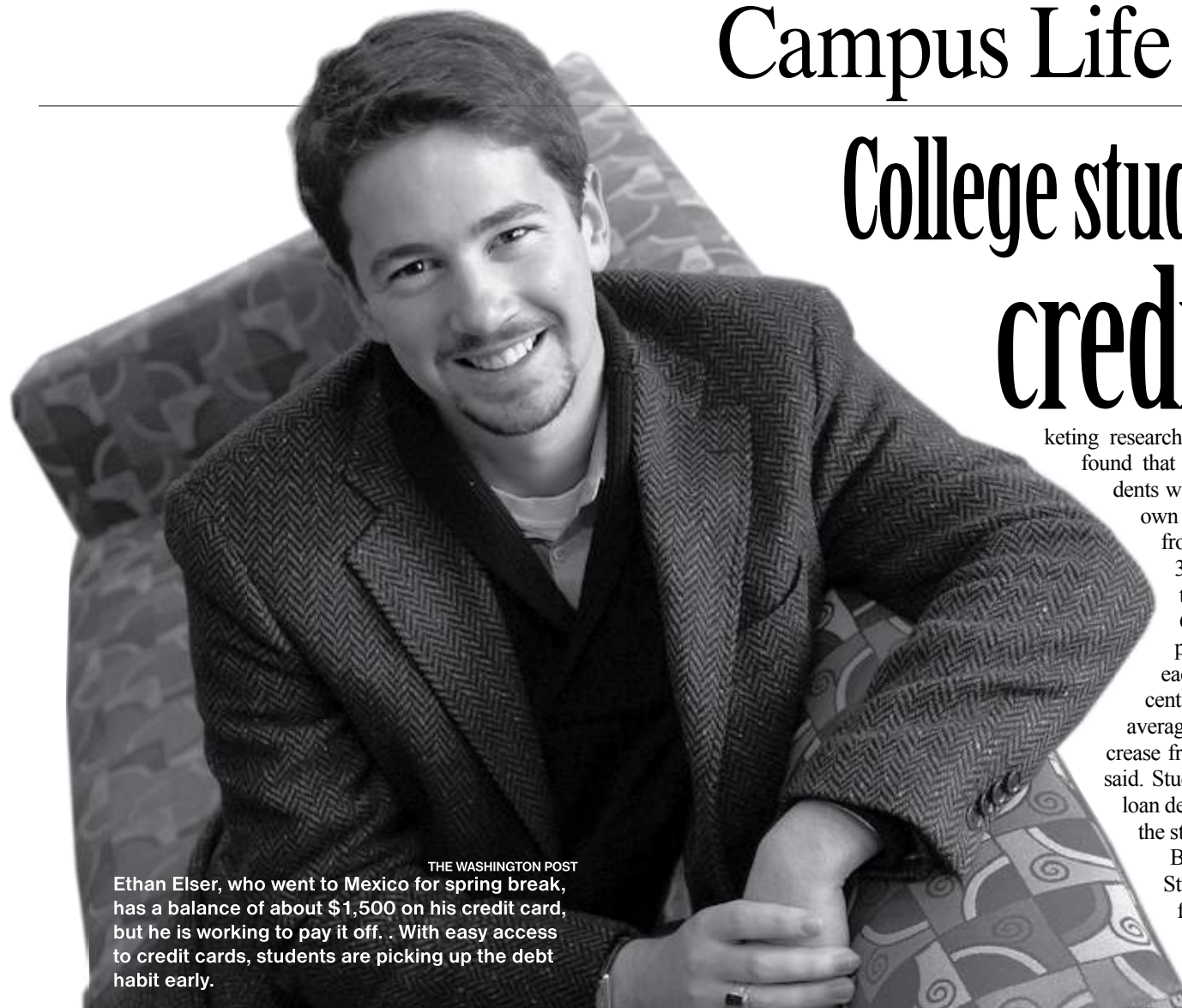
Gulf coast against the backdrop of spectacular mountains.

The rare carnival-like atmosphere in tightly controlled Oman was a welcome respite for Olympic organizers seeking to avoid protests over China's human rights record that marked torch stops Paris, London and San Francisco.

Officials said they expected a smooth relay of the flame on the brief Middle Eastern leg of its 20-nation tour, adding that any attempt to disrupt the parade would be dealt with severely.

Campus Life

College students under increasing credit card debt load



THE WASHINGTON POST
Ethan Elser, who went to Mexico for spring break, has a balance of about \$1,500 on his credit card, but he is working to pay it off. With easy access to credit cards, students are picking up the debt habit early.

By NANCY TREJOS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Lavina Ramchandani, 20, got an American Express card two months ago so she could pay a tuition bill.

Holly Jackson, 19, got a credit card when she needed a laptop.

Ethan Elser, 20, recently used his card to pay for a spring-break trip to Mexico.

All are college students, and all are in debt.

As the economy worsens, largely because so many people took out mortgages they could not afford, the nation is questioning how credit could have been made so easily available and why consumers were so eager to accept it.

But experts say it is behavior that begins at an early age. Decades ago, credit cards didn't typically enter the picture until a consumer had a career or a family. Now, once people turn 18, they are bombarded with credit card offers. College campuses have become breeding grounds for new consumers of credit, with companies using free T-shirts, sandwiches, even iPods to entice potential customers.

Students are an attractive market because "most adults already have too many credit cards," said Ed Mierzwinski, program director for U.S. PIRG, a federation of state Public Interest Research Groups that defends consumers. "It's expensive to market to people who have credit cards with other companies."

Consumer advocates say college students can least afford to graduate with debt these days, with an unstable job market. Many of them will graduate with student loan debt.

"Going into a recession, which it looks like we are, are you going to spend all this money on school and then graduate and not be able to find a job?" said Emily Davidson, a financial expert at Credit.com, a Web site that rates credit cards.

In a recently released U.S. PIRG survey of 1,500 students at 40 colleges in 14 states, nearly two in three students reported that they had at least one credit card. Fifty-five percent of cardholding students said they used their card for day-to-day expenses. Reflecting escalating college costs, 55 percent said they charge their books and nearly one-quarter said they pay their tuition with a card. On average, those freshmen whose parents were not helping them with their bills had a balance of \$1,301. Seniors had more than twice that, \$2,623. Nellie Mae, a student loan company, gathered

similar data when it did a study of undergraduate credit card use in 2004. Seventy-six percent of undergraduates began that school year with credit cards, and the average balance was \$2,169, lower than it had been in 2001.

Jackson, a sophomore government and politics major at the University of Maryland, has more than \$2,000 in credit card debt. She has two cards, one that she opened to buy a Dell laptop and another that she used to pay for gasoline, food and books.

She works part time at the Gap, earning \$7.75 an hour. Most of that goes toward her credit card bills. So far, she has not made any late payments, but she said she feels overwhelmed and might get a second job. "I'm learning my lesson," she said. "After I pay these off, I don't plan on getting more. They're awful."

Card companies argue that college students are adults and therefore have a right to credit. For the most part, industry experts say, they are no less responsible than the average adult.

In a survey of 1,200 full-time undergraduates conducted last month on 100 campuses, the mar-

keting research firm Student Monitor found that the percentage of students with a credit card in their own name had decreased, from 46 percent in 2004 to 35 percent this year. Of those who have cards, 63 percent said they pay their balance in full each month. The 37 percent who do not carried an average balance of \$452, a decrease from last year, the report said. Students had more student loan debt than credit card debt, the study pointed out.

Both the U.S. PIRG and Student Monitor surveys found that about a quarter of the students had been charged a late fee at some point.

Elser, a sophomore business administration major at George Washington University, said he considers himself informed. "I think once you hit 18, you're old enough to make your own decisions and you should absolutely be able to sign up for a credit card," he said.

He said that he has never missed a payment on his Visa card and that he always pays more than the minimum. (But he would have to pay interest on any unpaid balances.) He did not choose his card based on a marketing gimmick. Instead, he applied for one at his parents' bank before he went to college. Now, after that trip to Mexico, he has a balance of slightly more than \$1,500, but his mother plans to help him pay it off. He has scaled back on his spending, eating out less and doing no unnecessary shopping. "I always have a plan for how I'm going to pay for it," he said.

Many schools are incorporating financial literacy into their curricula or freshman orientation. At George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., for example, freshmen are required to take Mason 101, a course on handling college life that includes a lesson on credit cards. At Trinity Washington Uni-

versity, students go through a session on credit cards during freshman orientation, then again later in the year. The school also sends students e-mails advising them on good financial behavior, said spokeswoman Ann Pauley.

Credit card issuers said they, too, give students tips on how to handle their cards responsibly and start them out with lower limits. People who apply for the Discover Student Card receive a "Credit 101" booklet, and the company's Web site includes a "student center" with a budget calculator, credit quiz and a glossary of key terms, said Matthew Towson, a company spokesman. Capital One, in partnership with Visa, has offered MoneyWiSe University, a program to teach responsible spending and basic money management skills, on college campuses across the country since 2002.

Still, in recent months, federal and state lawmakers have taken credit card companies to task for their marketing techniques.

Last month, Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., introduced a bill that would, among other things, require credit card issuers to receive "opt-in" approval from consumers younger than 21 before mailing solicitations to them.

Also last month, the Maryland House of Delegates approved a bill that would ban companies from offering college students gifts to sign up for credit cards on campus or at school sporting events. The bill also would prohibit colleges from sharing student e-mail or postal addresses with card companies.

Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann recently sued Citibank for allegedly handing out coupons for free sandwiches at Ohio State University without making it clear that the students would have to fill out credit card applications to redeem them. Citibank has said it used an outside marketing company and did not authorize the campaign.

According to the U.S. PIRG study, 76 percent of students reported stopping at tables on campus to apply for credit cards, and nearly one-third were offered a free gift to sign up.

Increasingly, however, college campuses are banning such practices.

For those who get into serious debt, financial advisers said there are ways out.

Brent Neiser, director of strategic programs and alliances at the National Endowment for Financial Education, said students can turn to credit counselors and, most important, to their parents. Mom and Dad might not pay off the debt, but they could have some good ideas for dealing with it. Students should then cut their spending and think about getting second jobs.

Curtis Arnold, founder of CardRatings.com, which reviews credit cards, said students should also consider transferring their balances to cards with lower rates. And if they are deeply in debt, they should cut up the card, several advisers said.

Ramchandani, a junior at the University of Maryland, has a plan for paying off her debt. She and her mother researched several credit cards and found an American Express card that charges no interest for the first 14 months and has a \$2,000 limit.

Eager to pay her own way through college, she charged whatever her student loans could not cover of this semester's tuition. She is working part time at the campus television station and does not spend much money on things she does not need.

"It's not the greatest idea in the world. It's risky," she acknowledged. "I know I can be one of those college students who falls into debt. That's one of my greatest fears."

Still, she plans to pay off her card by June, then charge next semester's tuition.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Holly Jackson, 19, a University of Maryland student, has two credit cards, with the total balance topping \$2,000.

Life & Style

Rowling says lexicon theft of her work

NEW YORK (AP)—J.K. Rowling testified before a packed courtroom in a lawsuit to block publication of a Harry Potter lexicon, telling a judge that the book amounts to a “wholesale theft” of nearly 20 years of her hard work. “We all know I’ve made enough money. That’s absolutely not why I’m here,” Rowling told the judge in U.S. District Court.

The British author sued Michigan-based RDR Books last year to stop publication of Steven Vander Ark’s “Harry Potter Lexicon,” claiming copyright infringement. Vander Ark runs the popular Harry Potter Lexicon Web site, and RDR wants to publish a print version of the site and charge \$24.95.

Rowling claims the book is nothing more than a rearrangement of her own material and told the judge it copied so much of her work that it amounted to plagiarism.

“I think it’s atrocious. I think it’s sloppy. I think there’s very little research,” she testified Monday. “This book constitutes wholesale theft of 17 years of my hard work.”

She also said she has recently started work on her own encyclopedia and plans to donate the resulting profits to charity - adding that she does not expect to complete it for two to three years because she wants to do it right. If Vander Ark’s lexicon is published, “I’m not at all convinced that I would have the will or the heart to continue with my encyclopedia,” she said.

RDR’s lawyer, Anthony Falzone, in an opening statement defended the lexicon as a refer-



Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling arrives at Manhattan federal court, Monday, April 14, 2008, in New York.

ence guide, calling it a legitimate effort “to organize and discuss the complicated and very elaborate world of Harry Potter.” The small publisher is not contesting that the lexicon infringes upon Rowling’s copyright but argues that it is a fair use allowable by law for reference books.

Rowling said she believed that a victory by Vander Ark could damage the Harry Potter name and embolden imitators.

“Should it be published, I firmly believe that carte blanche will be given to anyone who wants to make a quick bit of money, to divert some Harry

Potter profits into their own pockets. ... I’m not delighted to have work I consider to be this shoddy associated with Harry Potter,” she said.

The non-jury trial will be decided by U.S. District Judge Robert Patterson Jr., who must determine whether the use of the material is legal because Vander Ark added his own interpretation, creativity and analysis. The testimony and arguments could last most of the week. Rowling will spend her breaks in the seclusion of a jury room, away from fans of her wildly popular series.

The trial comes eight months after Rowling published her seventh and final book in the series. The books have been published in 64 languages, sold more than 400 million copies and produced a film franchise that has pulled in \$4.5 billion at the worldwide box office.

In sometimes emotional testimony, Rowling recalled starting work on the first book in 1991 when she was 25 and so destitute that she sometimes had to choose between purchasing typewriter ribbon and food. She said the Harry Potter characters were a fantasy world to which she could escape from the hard work of raising a child on welfare as a single mother.

Rowling choked up when her lawyer, Dale Cendali, asked what Harry Potter meant to her.

“I really don’t want to cry because I’m British you know,” the mother of three said. Then she added, “These characters continue to mean so much to me over a long period of time. It’s very difficult for someone who

is not a writer to understand what it means to the creator. The closest you could come is to say, ‘How do you feel about your children?’ These books, they saved me.”

Rowling, who lives in Edinburgh, Scotland, with her husband and children, also testified she had stopped work on a new novel because the lawsuit has “decimated my creative work over the last month.”

She said Vander Ark sometimes simply translated a Latin word. “Any 7-year-old with a pocket Latin dictionary could do that.”

“There are incorrect translations, there are incorrect etymologies and there are places where Mr. Vander Ark quite literally has not understood the books,” she said.

Outside court, she read a statement saying she was fine with lots of books in many languages that comment on or criticize Harry Potter.

“But the book in this case is different. It provided no analysis and virtually no commentary. It takes far too much and it offers precious little in return,” she said.

Vander Ark, 50, has said he joined an adult online discussion group devoted to the “Harry Potter” books in 1999 before launching his own Web site as a hobby a year later. The Web site attracts about 1.5 million page views per month and contributions from people all over the world.

He said he initially declined proposals to convert the Web site into an encyclopedia, in part because he believed until

last August that in book form, it would represent a copyright violation.

After Rowling released the final chapter in the “Harry Potter” series last July, Vander Ark was contacted by an RDR Books employee, who told him that publication of the lexicon would not violate copyright law, he said. Still, to protect himself, Vander Ark said he insisted that RDR Books include a clause in his contract that the publisher would defend and pay any damages that might result from claims against him.

He said it was decided that the lexicon would include sections from the Lexicon Web site that give descriptions and commentary on individual names, places, spells and creatures from Harry Potter stories.

Rowling acknowledged she once bestowed an award on Vander Ark’s Web site because, she said, she wanted to encourage a very enthusiastic fan.

But she said she “almost choked on my coffee” one morning when she realized Vander Ark had warned others not to copy portions of his Web site. She said she now has second thoughts about all the encouragement she has given to online discussions and Web sites devoted to her books.

“I never censored it or wanted to censor it,” she said, adding that if she loses the lawsuit, she will conclude she essentially gave away her copyrights by encouraging the Web sites.

“Other authors will say, ‘I need to exercise more control. She was an idiot. She let it all go,’” Rowling said.

Swift, Pickler, win big at CMT awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift won video of the year and female video for her smash “Our Song” while newcomer Kellie Pickler took home three awards during Monday’s Country Music Television awards. “I wrote that song in the 9th grade for a talent show,” said the 18-year-old Swift, who won the night’s top honor over Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley and Sugarland.

“I never thought it would be on an album, never thought I’d record it, never thought it would be a single, never thought it would be No. 1 and certainly never thought it would win video and female video of the year.”

Pickler, 21, won breakthrough video, tearjerker video and performance of the year for “I Wonder,” a song about a daughter’s feelings for her mother that she says connects deeply with fans. Like Carrie Underwood, Pickler is a former “American Idol” contestant.

“Thank you ‘American Idol,’ you are the rocket that launched my career,” Pickler said from Scottsdale, Ariz.

Paula Abdul, who introduced Tim McGraw and Faith Hill’s performance of “I Need You,” remarked, “There are so many ‘American Idol’ alum here that I feel this is a reunion and I’m a proud mom.”

Trace Adkins won best male video for “I Got My Game On.” Adkins was something of a surprise winner, topping videos by Chesney, Paisley, Toby Keith and Keith Urban.

“I’m having a good year. So far it’s been great. I never felt the support from the fans like I do this year,” said Adkins, who recently finished second on NBC’s “The Celebrity Apprentice.”

LeAnn Rimes and Bon Jovi won best collaborative video for the steamy video “Till We Ain’t Strangers Anymore.” Rimes, who accepted the award without Bon Jovi, cracked, “I had a lot of fun

rolling around with Jon in bed.” Then she looked over at her husband in the crowd and added, “Sorry, honey. I love you. You’re hotter.”

The show was hosted by “Hannah Montana” star Miley Cyrus and her father, country singer Billy Ray Cyrus. The pair performed their duet “Ready, Set, Don’t Go.” During their opening segment, Billy Ray Cyrus joked about his daughter’s popularity.

“I know what’s going on here, OK. I didn’t fall off the turnip truck yesterday ... it’s pretty obvious what you’re all doing. You’re just using Miley to get to me.”

Alison Krauss and former Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant won wide open video for their duet “Gone, Gone, Gone (Done Moved On).”

“I’d like to say how peculiar it is to be here. It’s a great honor to have made a record in Nashville that sounds so good. I’d like to thank Don and Phil Everly for

getting me through my teenage years, and I’d like to thank Alison for helping me get through my late 50s.”

Paisley’s “Online” won comedy video, while Sugarland’s “Stay” won duo video. The two were the most nominated artists of the night.

The show opened with a skit about Adkins trying to get tickets to the show and featured presidential candidates Barack Obama, John McCain and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Urban opened the musical portion with “Raise the Barn” and was joined by Brooks & Dunn.

Sugarland, Little Big Town and Jake Owen performed the ‘80s hit “Life in a Northern Town” by the British folk rock group The Dream Academy.

Snoop Dog joined Jason Aldean to introduce Alan Jackson’s performance of “Good Time.” The rapper wore a black outfit and cowboy hat in honor



Taylor Swift, left, and Trey Fanjoy celebrate their award for Video of the Year during the CMT Music Awards, Monday, April 14, 2008, in Nashville, Tenn.

of the late Johnny Cash, who he said was the inspiration for his single, “My Medicine.”

The fan-voted awards show aired live on CMT from Belmont University in Nashville.



Cosby

Bill Cosby goes hip hop with new CD

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill Cosby's path has taken him from pudding pops to hip hop.

The 70-year-old has recorded a hip-hop album set for release next month. "Cosby Narratives Vol. 1: State of Emergency" blends the comedian's concepts and stories with a hip-hop, pop and jazz soundtrack.

"I do not rap on any of these things," Cosby told The Associated Press on Monday. "I wouldn't know how to fix my mouth to say some of the words."

Cosby said the hip-hop music he hears is profane and degrading. His album is "the opposite of what I think is the profanity for no particular reason, the misogyny for no particular reason," he said. "It really looks at the frustration and the anger that a young man may have."

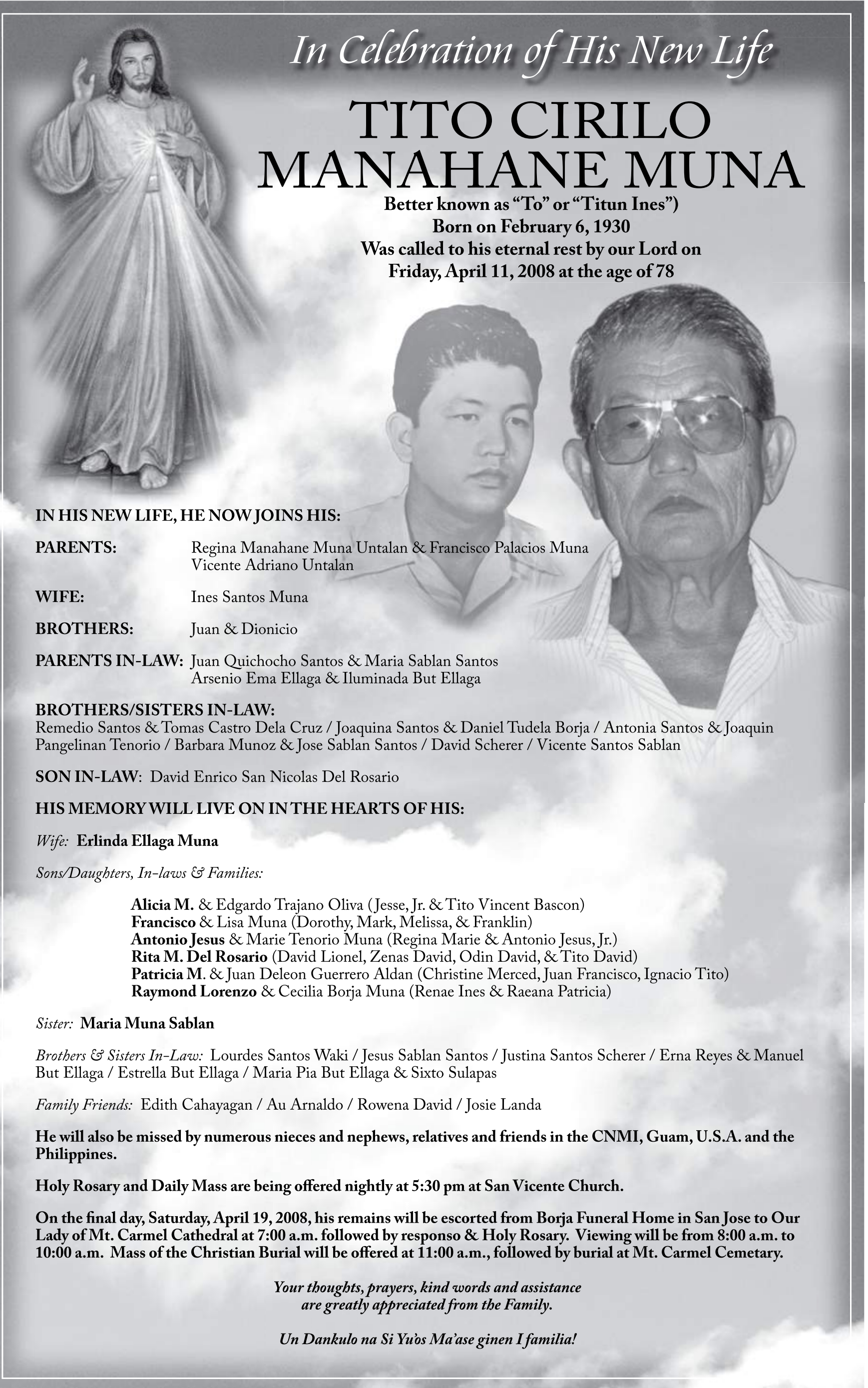
The album, assembled by Cosby's longtime musical collaborator Bill "Spaceman" Patterson, contains rhymes provided by guest rappers. The subject matter? "The value of an education. The value of respecting one's self and ... giving (listeners) a chance to raise their self-esteem and confidence," Cosby said.

Patterson said he was surprised when Cosby first inquired about making a rap record - until the comedian revealed he wouldn't be the one doing the rapping.

"People started speculating, is he going to rap about Jell-O Pudding Pops or what?" Patterson said. "But he's always been involved in music and he was there for the first generation of spoken word. ... He has always understood rap's potential, but he was appalled by the foul language and the misogyny - the way people used a medium that could be used to elevate people, to open their eyes and provoke thought."

Cosby made the album as a companion to his 2007 best-selling book, "Come on, People: On the Path from Victims to Victors." And though he doesn't expect the CD to be a huge hit, it won't be his last hip-hop venture.

"We can do even better," he said. "The next one will be even more cheerleading."



In Celebration of His New Life

TITO CIRILO MANAHANE MUNA

Better known as "To" or "Titun Ines")
 Born on February 6, 1930
 Was called to his eternal rest by our Lord on
 Friday, April 11, 2008 at the age of 78

IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE NOW JOINS HIS:

PARENTS: Regina Manahan Muna Untalan & Francisco Palacios Muna Vicente Adriano Untalan

WIFE: Ines Santos Muna

BROTHERS: Juan & Dionicio

PARENTS IN-LAW: Juan Quichocho Santos & Maria Sablan Santos
 Arsenio Ema Ellaga & Iluminada But Ellaga

BROTHERS/SISTERS IN-LAW:
 Remedio Santos & Tomas Castro Dela Cruz / Joaquina Santos & Daniel Tudela Borja / Antonia Santos & Joaquin Pangelinan Tenorio / Barbara Munoz & Jose Sablan Santos / David Scherer / Vicente Santos Sablan

SON IN-LAW: David Enrico San Nicolas Del Rosario

HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

Wife: **Erlinda Ellaga Muna**

Sons/Daughters, In-laws & Families:

Alicia M. & Edgardo Trajano Oliva (Jesse, Jr. & Tito Vincent Bascon)
Francisco & Lisa Muna (Dorothy, Mark, Melissa, & Franklin)
Antonio Jesus & Marie Tenorio Muna (Regina Marie & Antonio Jesus, Jr.)
Rita M. Del Rosario (David Lionel, Zenas David, Odin David, & Tito David)
Patricia M. & Juan Deleon Guerrero Aldan (Christine Merced, Juan Francisco, Ignacio Tito)
Raymond Lorenzo & Cecilia Borja Muna (Renae Ines & Raean Patricia)

Sister: **Maria Muna Sablan**

Brothers & Sisters In-Law: Lourdes Santos Waki / Jesus Sablan Santos / Justina Santos Scherer / Erna Reyes & Manuel But Ellaga / Estrella But Ellaga / Maria Pia But Ellaga & Sixto Sulapas

Family Friends: Edith Cahayagan / Au Arnaldo / Rowena David / Josie Landa

He will also be missed by numerous nieces and nephews, relatives and friends in the CNMI, Guam, U.S.A. and the Philippines.

Holy Rosary and Daily Mass are being offered nightly at 5:30 pm at San Vicente Church.

On the final day, Saturday, April 19, 2008, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 a.m. followed by responso & Holy Rosary. Viewing will be from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m., followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, kind words and assistance are greatly appreciated from the Family.

Un Dankulo na Si Yuòs Ma'ase ginen I familia!

Inauguration alters 2009 Oscar calendar

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—What's more significant: the inauguration of a new U.S. president or the announcement of the year's Oscar nominees? The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences decided politics takes precedence, announcing Monday that it has delayed the nominations announcement by two days.

Oscar nominees are usually revealed on a Tuesday about four weeks before the big show, which is typically held the last Sunday in February. For 2009, though, the targeted Tuesday—Jan. 20—is Inauguration Day.

So the 81st annual Oscar nominees will be revealed Thursday, Jan. 22, and the Academy Awards will be presented

Sunday, Feb. 22—the earliest Oscars ever.

"It didn't make any sense for us to try to compete with (the inauguration) from a news point of view," academy Executive Administrator Ric Robertson told The Associated Press.

But the change will put the squeeze on the rest of the calendar, Robertson said.

"Ballots are due Jan. 12, and nominations are announced 10 days later, so that's getting pretty close to the minimum," he said. "The most critical path is the balloting-voting process. Since we remain committed, for security reasons, to paper balloting, and all PricewaterhouseCoopers tabulating is done by hand, it's not done by computers. ... They can turn things around quickly

but they still need time."

Delaying the nominations also tightens production time for the Oscar telecast, since the show's makeup depends largely on the nominees. Producers of the ceremony usually have four and a half weeks to prepare. In 2009, it will be one month to the day.

"I know that whoever produces the show would like to have more time," Robertson said, "and this will be two days less than they've had in past years."

The 2009 presidential inauguration isn't the first event that prompted the academy to alter its calendar. The Oscar show was moved from the last Sunday in February in 2006 so it wouldn't conflict with the closing ceremony of the Win-

ter Olympics, Robertson said. "We have to look at other major global events," he said.

The academy's board of governors decided in 2004 to move the Oscar show from late March to late February to combat "awards fatigue" and "to maintain a higher level of interest and excitement," Robertson said.

Key dates for the 2009 Academy Awards are:

- Dec. 26, 2008: Nominations ballots mailed.
- Jan. 12: Nominations ballots due.
- Jan. 22: Nominees announced.
- Jan. 28: Final ballots mailed.
- Feb. 17: Final ballots due.
- Feb. 22: 81st annual Academy Awards.

Reality show maker arrested in Fla.

APOPKA, Fla. (AP)—Police charged an aspiring reality show director with blocking four women - half of a cast billed as ordinary girls hoping to become "princesses"—from leaving the central Florida house where the show was being shot.

Marc Brilleman, 33, identified as the chief operating officer, director and writer of "Pauper to Princess," was arrested Saturday on a charge of false imprisonment.

According to the show's Web site, its concept was to build the eight women's self-esteem and help them grow physically, mentally and spiritually. As with many reality shows, the women lived in a house while the program was taped. Producers were trying to sell the show to a TV network.

Four of the women told investigators Brilleman blocked and locked a door when they tried to leave the house, where they had been since February and had been able to leave on weekends, said Jerome Miller, a commander for Apopka police northwest of Orlando.

Brilleman initially denied stopping the women when questioned by police, then said "they could not leave because they were being disciplined," Miller said. Brilleman also told them they could not leave because they were under contract, the police report said.

According to the report, the women were also upset that they had not been paid for the past five weeks of filming.

Miller said the case would be forwarded to state prosecutors.

Brilleman posted a \$3,000 bond and was released several hours after his arrest. Police do not believe he has a criminal record. Miller said Brilleman is from South Africa, but his immigration status is unclear.

Calls to the telephone number listed on the show's Web site rang unanswered and e-mails sent to company executives were not answered. Brilleman does not have a listed telephone number and it was not known if he had a lawyer.

Jim Johnson, the show's executive producer, told the Orlando Sentinel the women who asked to leave were allowed to do so.

"Nobody was being held against their will at any time," Johnson said. "This show was an honorable show. We took them to the opera, we took them to fashion shows, we took them to modeling training and we took them to etiquette training."

Johnson did say the producers took the women's cell phones away, but he said that was done according to the contract the women signed. Even though the contract said the women had to remain in the house for 13 weeks, the producers had been letting the women leave on recent weekends, he told the newspaper.

AFTRA rejects SAG offer for joint talks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Screen Actors Guild will go it alone in contract negotiations with studios after the other major actors union rejected an invitation for joint talks.

In a letter Monday to SAG, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists said it would not revisit its decision to sever the guilds' long-time unified negotiations.

SAG's talks with the Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers were set to begin Tuesday.

The letter from Kim Roberts Hedgpeth, national executive director of AFTRA, was addressed to Doug Allen, her counterpart at SAG. A copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

The guild did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Sunday, SAG's national board voted to let AFTRA join its negotiations with producers on a new contract for feature film and prime-time TV. SAG gave AFTRA, whose own talks with producers are set to begin April 28, until Wednesday to respond.

In its letter, AFTRA said it did not appear there has been resolu-

tion of the "underlying problems" that prompted its national board to suspend the 27-year-old agreement under which the unions have bargained in tandem.

The AFTRA letter also called the 72-hour deadline set by SAG for a response a "pragmatically impossible timeline."

However, two AFTRA staff members will act as observers at the SAG talks, the letter said, in keeping with the guilds' mutual invitations. AFTRA requested the names of the SAG staffers who will attend its talks.

"We extend our best wishes to the members of the Screen Actors Guild negotiating committee in their efforts to negotiate an excellent contract for performers," the letter concluded.

The split between the unions came last month as AFTRA accused SAG of trying to entice actors in the soap drama "The Bold and the Beautiful" to abandon the federation.

SAG President Alan Rosenberg rejected the allegation, calling it a "calculated" and "cynical" excuse by AFTRA to hasten the end of the partnership he claimed they had long wanted to end.

Message of Appreciation

*From the bottom of our Hearts, my children
Cartrina, Tanya, Lorna, Victor Jude
and I (Victoria - Vicky B. Concepcion)
and our families of the late*

Julian Attao Concepcion

aka Jude



would like to extend our most profound and deepest gratitude to all of our extended families and friends for all the love, thoughtful gestures, kindness, prayers, and most especially for your presence at the Eucharistic Celebration, nightly rosaries, and daily masses.

To Father Manny, Father Glenn, Father Ryan, Father Joseph & Father Jesse for being a part of a beautiful Eucharistic Celebration.

To our techa, Marilyn Jones "Meng", Marcy Cepeda, and the Kristo Rai Choir. We love you.

To Carmen & Ernie (CHC), no words will be enough to express our gratitude for all your patience and understanding. Salamat Po.

To our First Hawaiian Bank family from Guam and Saipan. Thank you.

To our Rotary Club of Saipan family. Thank You.

To Frank Cabrera, and Victoria Kapileo Family Choir for the beautiful songs. Thank you.

To Fmr. Gov. Juan N. Babauta for the wonderful eulogy. Thank you.

To each and everyone who joined us during our time of grief, those not able to be with us and have contacted us from afar or have thought of us in their prayers. Si Yu'us Maase.

We will forever be grateful to All of you.

We love you.

God Bless.

*Vicky,
Cartrina, Tanya, Lorna, VJ and families
Tang Charo Concepcion, children and families*

*The final ninth day of mass will be on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 6 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.
Please join us for the Eucharistic Celebration and breakfast.*



Hillary Clinton to appear on 'Colbert'



AP
Stephen Colbert gestures during the filming of the Colbert Report on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on Monday April 14, 2008.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hillary Clinton is hoping the “Colbert bump” will help propel her to victory in Pennsylvania.

The Democratic presidential candidate will make her first appearance on Comedy Central’s “The Colbert Report” on Thursday. Both Clinton and Colbert have come to Pennsylvania ahead of the state’s hard-fought Democratic primary on April 22.

Clinton rival Barack Obama also is in Pennsylvania, but has thus far declined Colbert’s invitation. Obama’s wife, Michelle, will appear on the show Tuesday.

News of Clinton’s visit was divulged Monday night in Philadelphia by MSNBC pundit

Chris Matthews. He blurted it out during taping of the show at the University of Pennsylvania’s Zellerbach Theater. The news was confirmed by a person close to the satirical news program, who insisted on anonymity because the date of the visit hadn’t been publicly announced.

Comedy shows have played a role in the presidential campaign, and good things have happened to guests on “Colbert.” Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee was a regular on the show before his unexpected—but short-lived—success in pursuing the Republican nomination. And a “Saturday Night Live” sketch was credited for helping Clinton gain momentum in February.

Toni Braxton’s shows for April are canceled

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Toni Braxton won’t return to the stage on the Las Vegas Strip until at least next month. The Flamingo Las Vegas says Braxton’s show will remain dark this week while the 40-year-old Grammy winner has more medical tests following her April 7 hospitalization for chest pain.

Braxton was released the following day, but last week’s shows were canceled.

Flamingo President Don Marrandino said her Tuesday-through-Saturday shows are also off, and Braxton will take advantage of a previously

scheduled two-week break.

She is due to resume her show at the Flamingo Showroom on May 6.

The Flamingo is offering refunds for the canceled shows.

The exact cause of Braxton’s chest pain hasn’t been made public. She has been treated in the past for pericarditis, a viral inflammation of the heart.

Braxton is a six-time Grammy winner for songs including “Un-break My Heart.” Her Las Vegas act, “Toni Braxton: Revealed,” is in the midst of a two-year run at the Flamingo.

Former CNN anchor does the ‘possible’

NEW YORK (AP)—In a competitive and youth-obsessed business, most everyone gets The Call sometime. For ex-CNN daytime anchor Daryn Kagan, it came in January 2006.

She was brought into an office and told that CNN would not renew her contract when it expired at the end of the year. Kagan was lucky in one sense—she wasn’t escorted out that day by security—but by the first of September, she was gone.

Left with a personal crisis sadly familiar to many, Kagan reinvented herself with a Web site devoted to telling inspirational stories. With a book that went on sale Tuesday, two TV documentaries and a planned show for broadcast, she’s trying to build an empire.

“I don’t have a Web site,” she says now. “I have a media company.”

DarynKagan.com explodes onto the screen in a sunburst of orange, yellow and red. She has a centerpiece story of the day and an archive of dozens more: a man with two amputated legs who competed in an Ironman triathlon; a woman who sends donated breast milk to Africa; a man who rehabilitated Michael Vick’s pit bulls; a coffee shop worker who donated a kidney to a regular customer.

They’re the kinds of stories she loved doing for television. They didn’t have the import of war and peace but, she said, were “the ones that made my heart go zing.”

Kagan was initially inspired by former NBC correspondent Kevin Sites’ Web site about war zones. At first, she wanted to sell the idea to Yahoo!. After the company passed, Kagan decided to do it herself from her Atlanta home.

Most of the story ideas for DarynKagan.com (“show the world what’s possible” is the motto) come from readers, who are en-



AP
In this image released by Paul Schur & Associates, Daryn Kagan is shown.

couraged to write in. The site is not religious, although Kagan, who is Jewish, said she believes the mainstream media does a poor job of covering spiritual matters that are an important part of many people’s lives.

They’re the type of stories many hard-bit-ten journalists roll their eyes at. Kagan said it’s an important part of the media mix.

“If you’re really invested in feeling bad about the world, there are a lot of media outlets out there that you can turn to,” she said.

There were certain serendipities along the way to launch. When she went to register the domain name DarynKagan.com she found it had already been claimed by a cybersquatter, a person who registers names for Web sites in the hope that someone will eventually pay big money to acquire the rights. Kagan called the Florida man who had bought it, and after they talked he volunteered to give it to her. For free.

An old friend from elementary school signed up as her publicist.

She’s also taken advantage of new technology, like Voxant.com, a Web site that distributes her stories elsewhere online. A company that sells advertising to many Web sites also does it for her, meaning she doesn’t have to hunt for that support herself.

While CNN would likely send a camera crew if it was doing a story on the Minnesota woman who sends breast milk to Africa, Kagan sends instructions to interview subjects to set up their own video camera. She tells them to put a phone on their lap and switch it to speaker, and respond to the questions she asks them. That’s how she interviewed Desmond Tutu, and Tony LaRussa after the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, too.

She had never thought of starting her own business before. A small staff helps her, but Kagan has discovered an exhausting reality of the blogging life. The day doesn’t really end; you just have to decide when to shut it down.

There are advantages, though.

“In the news business, you have to get picked,” said Kagan, ex-girlfriend of another media emperor, Rush Limbaugh. “You have to get hired. There’s a lot of heartbreak in that process. If I do it this way, I don’t have to get picked. I can pick me.”

Given the way the traditional news business is shrinking, Kagan said she’d be more scared to have taken another job in television.

Kagan, 45, has made two documentaries as part of her new business. “Breaking the Curse,” which aired on PBS, was about an Atlanta-area woman working to end leprosy in India. “Solartown USA,” which hasn’t found a TV home yet, is about a Wisconsin town that made a commitment to solar power in the 1970s.

Parting can bring sorrow to those with unruly hair

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: For most of my life, I have parted my hair on the right. I am now being told that men should part their hair on the left. Is there a correct side for men?

—HARRY W., MORRO BAY, CALIF.



DEAR HARRY: I relayed your question to my hair design consultant, Bob Cox. According to Bob,

people naturally have a cowlick (or “whorl”) on one side of their scalp from which the hair growth pattern emerges. (Some people have two, although one is usually stronger than the other.) This is what determines which way the hair will naturally fall when it is parted.

Bob went on to relate the story of a client who had recently been referred to him. The gentleman had been going to his former barber for 15 years, and for 15 years his hair had never been easy to manage. Over the last couple of years, the problem had become so bad that his wife had to help him part his hair in the morning.

Bob took one look and realized the former barber had been parting the man’s hair on the wrong side, which had been causing it to stick up. The problem was resolved with one appointment. If other men out there are having the same problem, this letter may be helpful.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently presented a research proposal. I did the best I could and was verbally attacked by my boss. She is often tactless and can at times be cruel.

I tried to defend my research, but perhaps I did it too emphatically and went overboard, because my team member turned off my microphone and apologized to the boss.

I understand some of the criticisms, but what bothered me was that other proposals were more flawed than ours, but were not attacked in a similar fashion. One thing led to another, and I broke down in tears at the table. Luckily, the boss did not see it, but other team members did.

Is showing emotion in public wrong? I tried to hold it in but couldn’t. I was insulted and felt terrible for my team. Was crying unprofessional? Should I have run to the powder room to sob—or would that have made it worse?

—TEARY-EYED IN MALAYSIA

DEAR TEARY-EYED: To show emotion in public is human, as long as one does not have a complete meltdown. You lost control twice, the first time when your team member felt it necessary to turn off your microphone and offer apologies to your boss; the second, when you began crying. Excusing yourself and going to the restroom would have been more appropriate and professional than what you did at the meeting. Learn from it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am deeply patriotic and support our troops wholeheartedly. Because I am people-oriented, I try to go out of my way at my job (I am a hotel front desk clerk) to say nice things to people or do something for them. I often see government IDs on individuals (usually military) and I would like to say thanks—but I don’t know how. I don’t know who’s been overseas or not, and was wondering if you had any suggestions. I would just like to be able to say thanks without being intrusive and remain professional about it.

—ELIZABETH IN ORLANDO

DEAR ELIZABETH: All you need to say is, “Thank you very much for your service to our country.” The statement is direct, not at all intrusive and will be appreciated.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

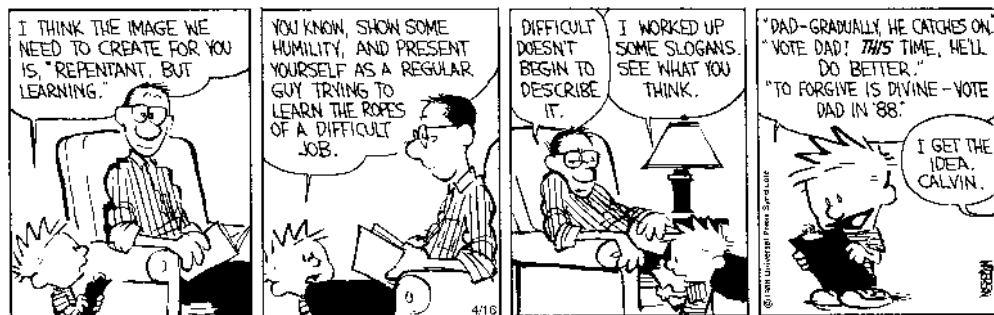
■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



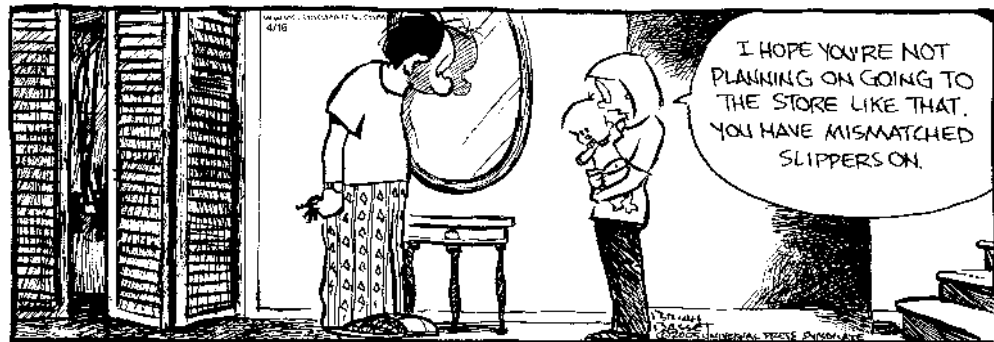
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



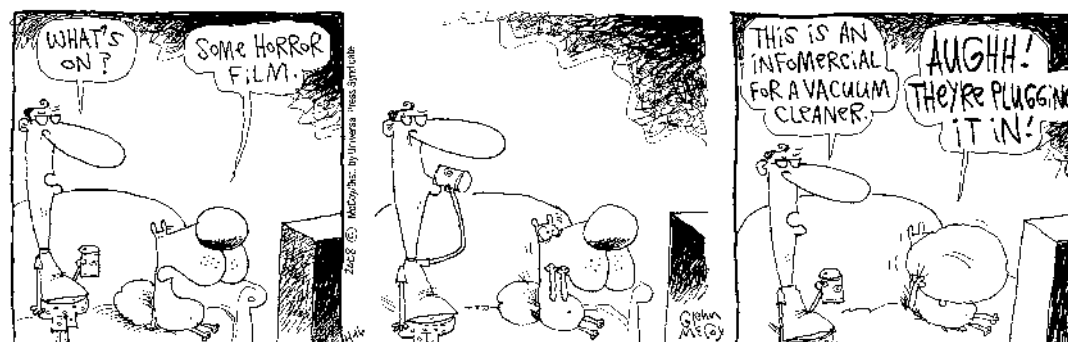
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Barbie's companion
4 Squashed circle
8 Ostentation
12 Historic time
13 Memo-randum
14 "Begone!"
15 Early bird?
16 Full miles in a marathon
18 Runner-up
20 Happy cohort?
21 Sylvester's impediment
24 "— New, Pussy-cat?"
28 Running the gamut
32 "Spam-a-lot" creator
33 Chit
34 Armstrong or Prima

DOWN

36 Commotion
37 Fortune
39 Type of soup
41 Group character
43 Despot
44 Drench
46 Literary category
50 Calligrapher's skill
55 Lubricate
56 Medley
57 Sheltered
58 Hot tub
59 Distort
60 Begged
61 Coop denizen

19 Shade source

Solution time: 21 mins.

OPAL	ROAD	MAP
DELICATE	HARE	ALE
ETIQUETTE	ROT	
USES	PIQUE	
BASIN	MENU	
EGAD	FRANK	EST
GUSTON	TOO	
SEQUOIA	STUB	
UNRAVEL	FIERY	
BEANS	BALM	
RUT	TURQUOISE	
ARC	ESAU	NOEL
DOH	DATA	SUCK

Yesterday's answer 4-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Martin Lawrence, 43; Jon Cryer, 43; Ellen Barkin, 54; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 61

Happy Birthday: Don't let your anxiety or disappointment lead you down the wrong path. This is a year to excel if you concentrate on work and accomplishments. Progress, learning and putting what you know into play should be your goal. Look to the future with optimism. Your numbers are 12, 20, 23, 32, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't stop because there is something you'd rather do. Put in the hours required to advance, not to have fun. Focus on your talents and get serious about what you do and advancement will be yours. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take matters too seriously, even if a change in plans occurs. As long as you don't make a fuss, the tables will turn and you will come out on top. A chance to network will allow you to get the opinions of people who count. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone may be out to make you look bad. Take a cautious approach and say little if you want to avoid conflict. A love interest may be intriguing but, if it will hinder what you are trying to accomplish in any way, take a pass for now. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sometimes you have to allow changes in your life in order to get past something or someone who is blocking you. If you can adjust some of your personal arrangements at home, you will

feel better about yourself and your future. Take control. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): No matter what you do, you will attract a lot of attention, so think carefully about your actions. Love is on the rise and you will be tempted to get involved in a partnership that could have many different facets. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to do things a little differently. You've been too predictable in the past and, if you want to stay on top, be a little erratic for a change. You'll keep your competition and acquaintances guessing. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't tell your secrets or your true thoughts about others or situations for the time being. Evaluate what others think and do before you reveal your position. Too much, too soon will be your downfall. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will meet someone who impresses you if you attend an event that has to do with helping others or a cause you believe in. The changes you make to accommodate a new belief or lifestyle will work well for you in the future. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't count on anyone making promises or talking big about what he or she can offer. Chances are exaggeration will be behind what's being offered. Do things yourself if you want them done to your specifications. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money is heading in your direction. If there

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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is a deal on the table, close it and you will come out on top. Don't let love cost you but don't pass up what's being offered either. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone will be more serious than you regarding a partnership. Don't make statements that will lock you into doing something you may not want to do. An emotional situation will be up in the air and hard to decipher. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When it comes to love or business partnerships, a change of plans or feelings is apparent. Stay on top of what everyone involved is demanding. If the stakes get too high, back away and work with entirely different people. ★★★

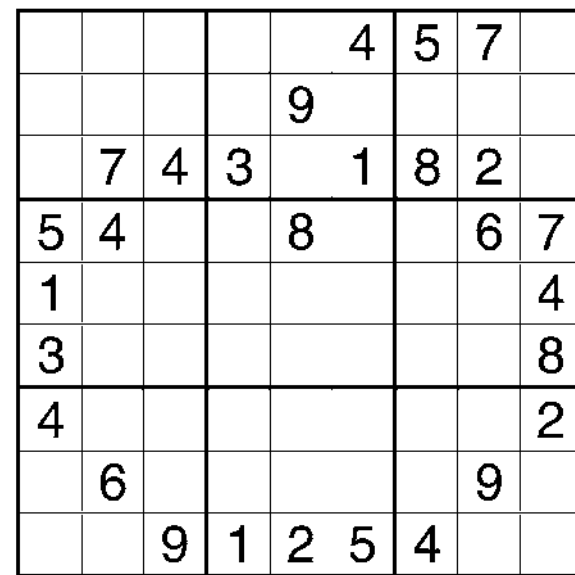
Birthday Baby: You have pride, a powerful presence and the patience to hold off until the timing is right. You are intelligent and precise and this will lead to great popularity and leadership responsibility.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



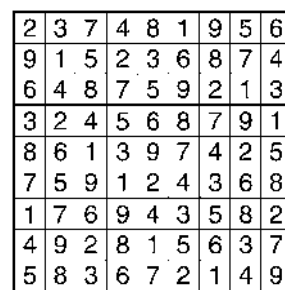
Difficulty Level ★★★

4/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

4/16

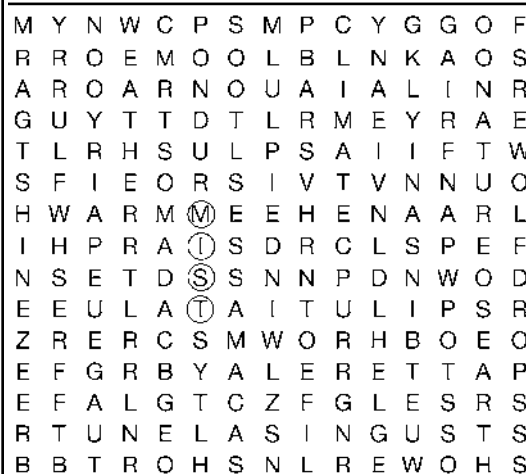
WONDERWORD

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them; and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter owner's spell the Wonderword.

APRIL SHOWERS

Solution: 8 letters



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Air, Animals, Begin, Bloom, Breeze, Bulbs, Children, Climate, Clouds, Cools, Cycle, Down, Draft, Drops, Earth, Flowers, Flurry, Foggy, Fresh, Grass, Green, Grow, Gusts, Haze, Leaves, Life, Masses, Mature, Mist, Month, Nature, Patter, Plant, Playful, Pots, Pour, River, Shine, Sport, Snow, Sing, Soak, Spring, Sprout, Thunderstorm, Trees, Tulips, Tune, Vapor, Warm, Water, Weather, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Insurance

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STUMPED?

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Beasley decides to leave K-State for NBA



MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)—After putting together one of the best freshman seasons ever, Michael Beasley is headed to the NBA.

Kansas State's All-American freshman announced Monday that he will skip his final three seasons to enter the June 26 NBA draft, where he could be the No. 1 overall pick.

"It's time to take my game to the next level," Beasley said as his family and several teammates looked on. "I think I proved myself over the course of the season. I just think it's time for new challenges."

Fellow freshman Bill Walker also announced Monday that he was making himself eligible for the draft, but he won't sign with an agent. That means that Walker, who averaged 16.1 points and 6.3 rebounds this season, can remove his name prior to the draft and be eligible to return to Kansas State for his sophomore year.

Beasley dominated his lone college season, averaging 26.2 points and becoming just the third freshman in NCAA history to lead the nation in rebounds at 12.4 per game. He had the second-most rebounds and third-most points by a freshman in



Kansas State freshman Michael Beasley announces his plans to take part in the NBA draft during a news conference in Manhattan, Kan. Monday, April 14, 2008.

NCAA history, helping Kansas State to its first NCAA tournament victory in 20 years.

Beasley also was a consensus All-American, was named Big 12 player of the year and finished second to North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough for numerous player of the year awards.

"Mike's as good as I've seen," said Kansas State coach Frank Martin, seated next to Beasley

in front of dozens of reporters.

NBA scouts and general managers like him, too.

An agile 6-foot-10 power forward, Beasley is exceptionally versatile, able to power his way inside or step out to the perimeter, shooting 37 percent from beyond the arc.

NBA officials came out in droves to watch him play at nearly every game, and some general

managers spent three to four days at a time in Manhattan, leading to speculation that Beasley would be the No. 1 overall draft pick if he left school early.

Millions of dollars awaits Beasley in the NBA, but it still wasn't an easy decision to leave school.

He spent the weekend debating whether he should stay or go, talking with family, friends and coaches about the NBA.

It wasn't until Monday morning, just hours before his self-imposed deadline, that Beasley made his final decision.

"I kind of made my mind up, then went back to being undecided, made my mind up, then went back to being undecided," said Beasley, who signed with agent Joe Bell. "Today was when my decision stuck."

Beasley leaned heavily on his mother, Fatima Smith, and Martin in making his decision.

Smith has been Beasley's main supporter, helping him as he bounced from once high school to another after his pranks wore thin, moving her family to tiny Manhattan once he decided to attend Kansas State. She was there again when the time came for 'Lil Mike, as she calls him, to make a decision about the NBA.

"The best thing I could have done was let him breathe, come to some decisions on his own, let him come to me with some questions," Smith said. "And once he came to me with some questions, I kind of guided him and turned the questions around: 'what would you do or how do you think this would happen?' It was still a battle up until last night, until this morning."

NBA All-Star Anthony nabbed on DUI suspicion

DENVER (AP)—NBA All-Star Carmelo Anthony was arrested early Monday on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol, hours after his worst game of the season. The Denver Nuggets forward was arrested on Interstate 25, police said. He was alone in the car and pulled over for weaving and not dimming his lights.

Detective Sharon Hahn said Anthony failed a series of sobriety tests. He was charged with DUI, then taken to police headquarters before being released to a "sober responsible party," Hahn said. Anthony is due in court May 14.

Mark Warkentien, the Nuggets' vice president of basketball operations, said the team was aware of the situation but declined comment. The Nuggets did not practice Monday and Anthony wasn't available. He's expected at practice Tuesday.

Anthony's attorney, Dan Recht, said his client consented to a blood test, but results won't be available for about two weeks.

"Carmelo apologizes to his fans, the Denver community, his teammates and the Nuggets organization for the distraction this is causing them," Recht said.

The Nuggets (49-32) moved a half game ahead of Golden State for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference on Sunday night when they beat Houston 111-94. Denver can clinch a fifth straight postseason berth by beating Memphis at home Wednesday night or if

Martin didn't hesitate in offering his opinion.

Certainly he would have loved for Beasley to stay. What coach wouldn't want a player like him for four years, dominating games, drawing national attention to the school? But as someone who scratched and clawed his way out of a poor neighborhood to make a name for himself, Martin knew what going to the NBA would mean for Beasley and his family.

"I'm of the opinion if someone has the opportunity to be worth \$100 million, they go take advantage when that opportunity presents itself because that window isn't always open," Martin said.

Beasley said at the start of the season that he wanted to play at Kansas State for four years, that he had made a commitment and wanted to earn a degree. He started hinting early in the season that he might not stick around and ultimately decided the money was just too much to pass up.

"I just think it's the right decision for my family financially," Beasley said. "I feel that by me going to the NBA, I can take care of my family, make sure our lives are better."

Devin Brown's free throws lift Cavaliers to 91-90 win over 76ers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers were brought back from their locker room to watch Devin Brown sink two free throws with 0.2 seconds left for the Cleveland Cavaliers to win 91-90 in the NBA on Monday.

The Sixers appeared to have won after Lou Williams hit a fadeaway jumper with 5.1 seconds left. Instead, Brown was fouled by Samuel Dalembert with only a couple of ticks left. The Sixers thought the game was over and ran off the court, while the refs huddled at mid-court to look at the replay. The Cavaliers stayed on the bench, with some peeking over and hoping to hear the decision.

After the play was reviewed for a few minutes, Dalembert was hit with his sixth foul. The Sixers had to come back and watch Brown stun them for the controversial win.

Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks argued with the refs and guard Andre Miller punted the ball in frustration.

LeBron James scored 27 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 22 and the Cavaliers clinched home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs against Washington.

Wizards 117, Pacers 110

At Washington, the home team's reserves easily eliminated Indiana from the playoff race.

Roger Mason topscored with 31 points for Washington,

whose reserves outscored the starters 70-47.

Indiana's defeat gave the idle Atlanta Hawks the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, their first time in the playoffs since 1999.

Celtics 99, Knicks 93

At New York, Rajon Rondo had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Boston in the absence of his three All-Star teammates Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen, who were rested.

Sam Cassell added 22 points for the Celtics, who learned during the game they will face Atlanta in the first round of the playoffs.

Nate Robinson scored 26 points for New York, which fell to 23-58 and needs a win in its season finale at Indiana to avoid tying the franchise record for losses, last matched two years ago.

Raptors 91, Heat 75

At Toronto, Rashaun Nesterovic scored 20 points, and Chris Bosh 15 as Toronto locked up the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference and a first-round matchup with Orlando.

Nesterovic was 10-for-19 from the field, scoring double figures for the 17th consecutive game, and grabbed seven rebounds.

Daequan Cook had 22 points for Miami, which must beat Atlanta at home on Wednesday to avoid the worst record in franchise history. The Heat went 15-67 in their inaugural

1988-89 season.

Jazz 105, Rockets 96

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored 21 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, pulling Utah even with Houston in the muddled Western Conference standings with one game to go in the regular season.

Both teams are 54-27, but by winning two of three against the Rockets, the Jazz would hold home-court advantage if they still have identical records after Wednesday and meet in the opening round of the playoffs. Utah finished its home schedule 37-4.

Tracy McGrady and Luis Scola scored 22 each for Houston.

Bulls 151, Bucks 135

At Milwaukee, Luol Deng scored 32 points on 15-of-20 shooting and Ben Gordon added 29 points as Chicago fell five points short of a franchise record for points set in 1990.

The Bulls also got 22 points and 15 assists from Chris Duhon, and three other players finished in double digits.

The Bulls shot 67 percent from the field, the highest ever allowed by Milwaukee, which lost its seventh straight.

The lone bright spot for the Bucks was rookie Ramon Sessions, who set a franchise record with 24 assists, three more than Guy Rodgers had in Milwaukee's sixth game as a franchise on Oct. 31, 1968. Sessions also scored 20 points—the first 20-20 with points and assists in

Suns 122, Warriors 116

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and Phoenix recovered after blowing a 17-point lead, eliminating the Warriors from playoff contention.

The Warriors' loss clinched the final playoff spot in the West for Denver.

Steve Nash nearly had a triple-double with 13 points, 14 assists and nine rebounds as the Suns remained in the midst of a scramble for playoff positioning and a possible home-court advantage in the first round.

Stephen Jackson scored 16 of his 23 points in the Warriors' third-quarter comeback. Monta Ellis added 20 points, Kelenna Azubuike 17 and Andris Biedrins 16.

Spurs 101, Kings 98

At Sacramento, California, Tony Parker tied his season high with 32 points and added 11 assists as San Antonio downed Sacramento.

The victory, coupled with Houston's loss to Utah, put the Spurs in position to clinch third place in the conference for a second straight season. A year ago, they defeated Cleveland in the NBA finals.

John Salmons led the Kings with 29 points, Spencer Hawes had 17, Beno Udrih scored 16 and Francisco Garcia added 15.

the Warriors lose at Phoenix on Monday night or against Seattle on Wednesday night.

Anthony was held to 11 points on 3-of-14 shooting against a Rockets team that was missing defensive specialist Shane Battier. Anthony did extend his NBA-best streak of



This booking shot provided by the Denver Police Department shows Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony on Monday, April 14, 2008, after the basketball player was pulled over while driving his Mercedes Benz erratically on Interstate 25 near downtown Denver.

double-digit games to 206.

On Saturday, he committed a flagrant foul against Utah's Deron Williams that changed the course of a close game. The Jazz went on to win 124-97.

Anthony was named an All-Star starter for the first time this year. He's fourth in the NBA in scoring (25.8) and is averaging a career-best 7.4 rebounds.

Boston rallies to beat Cleveland in rematch



CLEVELAND
(AP)—Manny Ramirez hit a two-run homer and the

Boston Red Sox rallied for three runs in the ninth inning against Cleveland Indians closer Joe Borowski for a 6-4 win on Monday in a stunning rerun of last October's playoffs.

Ramirez's shot—No. 493 of his career—off Borowski (0-2) was the latest Red Sox comeback against the Indians. Last autumn, Boston rallied from a 3-1 American League Championship Series deficit to beat Cleveland and advance to the World Series.

Julio Lugo hit a leadoff double in the ninth off Borowski and scored on Dustin Pedroia's sacrifice fly to tie it 4-4.

With the Indians shifted to the right, David Ortiz dropped a bloop single into left—his second hit. Ramirez then belted Borowski's first pitch into the left-field seats, a place he frequently visited with long balls while a member of the Indians.

The homer tied the long-haired hitting machine with Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig and Fred McGriff for 24th on the MLB career list.

Yankees 8, Rays 7

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Robinson Cano's pinch-hit homer snapped an eighth-inning tie, and Alex Rodriguez hit No. 521 to match Hall of Famers Ted Williams and Willie McCovey for 15th on the career list in New York's victory over Tampa Bay.

Yankees starter Ian Kennedy cruised into the seventh inning with a 7-2 lead before he was hit on the right hip by Jason Bartlett's line drive, knocking him out of the game.

The Rays quickly rallied with home runs by Carl Crawford, B.J. Upton and rookie Evan Longoria to tie it at 7, but Cano, who entered hitting .170, came off the bench to put the Yankees back in front with a long homer to right off Al Reyes (1-2).

Tigers 11, Twins 9

At Detroit, Ivan Rodriguez tied it with a two-run triple in a six-run eighth inning, then scored the go-ahead run on Jacques Jones' sacrifice fly to lift high-priced Detroit past Minnesota for its first win at home this season.

Rodriguez also homered in the seventh and the Tigers won for the first time in seven home games. They improved to 3-10 overall, still the worst record in MLB.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 3

At Baltimore, Kevin Millar homered and drove in three runs to back a fine pitching performance by Matt Albers in Baltimore's victory over Toronto.

Adam Jones tied a career high with three hits for the Orioles, who won their sixth straight home game.

Albers (2-0) allowed one run, five hits and a walk in five innings to earn his first AL win.

Dustin McGowan (0-1) gave up three runs and 10 hits in six innings.

Athletics 2, White Sox 1

At Chicago, Greg Smith outpitched Mark Buehrle for his first major league win, and Kurt Suzuki went 4-for-4 as Oakland won.

The A's are 6-1 on their first road trip of the season and they improved to 9-5 overall for their best start through 14 games since opening 10-4 in 1992.

Making his second big league appearance, Smith (1-0) gave up one run and six hits over seven innings.

Buehrle (1-1), who hadn't pitched in eight days because of a rainout and a decision to give him an extra day of rest, gave up nine hits in seven innings while his career mark against Oakland dropped to 3-10.

Angels 7, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Ervin Santana rebounded from a three-run first to pitch seven strong innings, and Mike Napoli homered as Los Angeles handed Texas its fourth straight loss.

Santana (2-0) came in 1-4 with an 8.92 ERA against the Rangers on the road and quickly fell behind, allowing Hank Blalock's two-run homer and Michael Young's sacrifice fly in the first. But after loading the bases in the third, he retired 11 straight.

The Angels went in front 5-3 in the second against Jason Jennings (0-3) on Napoli's leadoff homer, Vladimir Guerrero's run-scoring double and Garret Anderson's RBI single.

Royals 5, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Zack Greinke pitched a five-hitter for his third career complete game, and Kansas City opened a seven-game road trip with a win over Seattle.

Billy Butler and Miguel Olivo each hit their first homer of the season for Kansas City.

Greinke (3-0) joined teammate Brian Bannister with his third win, though his ERA climbed from 0.60 to 0.75. The right-hander was efficient, striking out four and inducing three double plays while facing only three batters more than the minimum.

Jarrod Washburn (1-2) allowed three runs and six hits, striking out six.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4

At San Francisco, Randy Johnson did not allow an earned run in five innings in his season debut, eight months after back surgery, settling down to finish with seven strikeouts and four walks before the San Francisco Giants rallied for a victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Giants loaded the bases in the seventh with no outs against reliever Chad Qualls (0-1), who allowed Ray Durham's tying RBI groundout followed by Bengie Molina's go-ahead sacrifice fly.

Keiichi Yabu (1-1), who had dental surgery earlier in the day, worked two scoreless innings for his first win in nearly three years. He beat the Giants on May 20, 2005, with the Oakland Athletics.

Conor Jackson drove in three runs for

the Diamondbacks, who had their eight-game winning streak snapped Sunday against Colorado and lost consecutive games for only the second time this year.

Brian Wilson finished for his fourth save.

Johnson gave up three unearned runs and three hits. He hadn't pitched in the big leagues since a 9-5 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers last June 28, before his August operation.

The 44-year-old left-hander topped out at 93 mph with his fastball.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 4

At Los Angeles, Nate McLouth hit a three-run homer off All-Star closer Takashi Saito with two outs in the ninth inning to extend his season-opening hitting streak to 13 games, and Pittsburgh beat the stunned Los Angeles Dodgers for its fourth straight victory.

Saito (1-1) was trying to save the win for countryman Hiroki Kuroda, who made his Dodger Stadium debut. But the right-hander gave up a one-out single to Jose Bautista and a two-out single to pinch-hitter Adam LaRoche before McLouth hit his second homer this season.

McLouth is one of three players to hit safely in each of his team's first 13 games this year, along with Kansas City's Billy Butler and the Dodgers' James Loney.

Bautista hit a two-run homer for the Pirates. Tyler Yates (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win and Matt Capps worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

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DELIVERY

Survivors, Ol'Aces trounce foes in Little League

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Martha's Store Survivors and the Happy Market Ol'Aces scored similar lopsided wins over separate opponents as action continued in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Sunday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The Survivors scored a 19-1 demolition of the Wells Fargo As Matuis Twins, while Ol'Aces needed a late-inning scoring surge to pull off an 11-3 decision against the Pacific Islands Club-Deloitte&Touche

Dragons of San Antonio.

Sisior Romolor led the Survivors' lopsided win, going 3-for-3 with a triple and an RBI while Vicente Cabrera pitched 1 1/3 innings in relief retiring the last three batters he faced in the top of the fourth.

Cabrera struck out M.J. Sakisat and Roberty Tudela, while forcing Ton Camacho to ground out to a 6-3 putout play to end the game.

The Survivors also used an eight-run third inning scoring to break the game wide open.

In the second game, Jeremy Lizama pitched in no relief to lead Ol'Aces to an 11-3 triumph against the hard-fighting Dragons of San Antonio.

Lizama gave up two earned runs on six hits while striking out 10 batters and walking two more.

In the other games, Team McDonald's bounced back from consecutive losses to score an 8-3 victory against DPS Dare JPO of Rep. Diego T. Benavente, while the Kautz Glass Pirates clipped Hustlers II, 15-5.

On Saturday, Thomas Reyes went 2-for-2 with one run and a triple to lead the Bank of Saipan Red Sox to a 10-4 win over the Kagman Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos.

The UMDA Hustlers I leaned on Raymund Saralu's pitching and the consistent hitting of its sluggers to coast to a 24-1 thrashing of the Tan Holdings Athletics.

Saralu pitched four one-hit innings with the A's lone run an earned with six strikeouts and four walks.

Khobby Kaipat and Jesus Mafnas led the Hustlers' hit parade going 4-for-4 and 3-for-3 at the plate. Kaipat scored four times and had two doubles while Mafnas had three runs, a double and three RBIs.

A.J. Lizama and Mike Gabilanza combined for 4-for-6 in batting with six runs and two doubles, while Joseph Borja went 2-for-3 with three runs and two RBIs.

Jesus Celes only went 1-for-3 but managed to score two runs and had three RBIs.

MASC to meet tomorrow for spearfishing event

The Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club will hold an organizational meeting for the upcoming 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament at 7pm tomorrow, April 17, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion.

MASC president Morito Asai and his vice president Felix Sasamoto said they are inviting all spearfishing enthusiasts to attend the meeting. The two said the 2nd

Annual Spearfishing Tournament is scheduled for May 2008.

Last year, John Starmer won the Biggest Fish category after he and his crew caught a 5.4-lb Spadefish.

Starmer and his crew took home a handsome championship trophy, an Omer Excalibur 3000 spear gun, and a \$100 gift certificate.

Scott Russel and Peter Houk,

meanwhile, won the total weight and total fish categories with their haul of 44.58 lbs that constitutes 24 pieces.

The Biggest Parrotfish was awarded to Russel (3.52 lbs), the Biggest Rudderfish award belonged Houk (4.38 lbs), while the Biggest Emperor and Biggest Goatfish were bagged by Cris Sasamoto (3.72 lbs) and Mark

Hapdei (1.4 lbs), respectively.

A total of 13 teams (26 divers) and nine boats took part in the Inaugural Spearfishing Tournament, which was held last May 11.

For more information about 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament and the meeting tomorrow, call Asai at 483-7625/233-5055 or Sasamoto at 898-8155. (Mark Rabago)

BARJA

From Page 28

198, 216, and 219.

Lito Teodoro was good for fourth place after his 192, 177, 230, and 224 allowed him to finish with a total of 823 and an average of 205.75.

Robles, Castro, and Teodoro went home \$50, \$30, and \$15 richer after their performances

Sunday and Monday.

Zapanta, for her part, finally won the Queen of the Lanes tiara after coming close last month with a four-game series last Sunday of 722, good for an average of 180.5.

The affable wife of Saipan Bowling Association treasurer Ross Zapanta, knocked down 187, 195, 182, and 158 in Day 1 of the competition.

Ron Cal took second place

with a total of 703 and an average of 175.75 (173, 194, 179, and 157), while Yho Villavicencio wound up third with her 701 and 175.25 numbers (190, 170, 172, and 169).

Zapanta, who hails from Cavite, Philippines, earned \$60 for her win, while Cal and Villavicencio bagged \$40 and \$20, respectively.

A total of 46 entries took part in the April King and

Queen of the Lanes.

Last Sunday also at the Capital Bowling Center, Zack Cruz won the Bing Energy Drink Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after toppling 814 pins in four games for a 203.75 average.

Like the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes, the Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC.

ESDRELON

From Page 28

percent clip, or making 35 of his 46 attempts at the charity line.

He also had the most assists this season, tallying 59 in the 12 games he played for a 4.91 per outing average.

Borja earned the Coach of the Year award for steering Fiesta-Grand to the pennant with

a league-best 11-1 record and capping the season with an 87-72 title win over Pacific Islands Club in the do-or-die championship last Sunday.

Fiesta-Grand, under Borja's leadership on the sidelines, won nine straight regular season games after suffering a 86-102 thrashing from Hyatt Regency Saipan on Dec. 9.

Fiesta-Grand ended the regular season with a hard-earned

98-92 triumph over PIC on March 16 to enter the playoffs as the top-seeded squad.

They continued their finals bid with a thrilling 118-116 decision against Hyatt Regency last March 30 and ended the season with a finals win over PIC to nail their 12th straight win.

Sanciangco earned the scoring title after scoring a total of 341 points or a per game average of 28.4. He even scored a

season-high 41 points in Fiesta-Grand's 118-116 win over Hyatt in the playoffs.

PIC's Derrick Tudela earned the most rebounds this season with a total of 102 or a 9.2 per game average, while Vinas was the King of Swipe with a total of 37 steals and 3.4 average. Edmark Mendoza was the league's Sultan of Swat with a total of 12 blocked shots or 1.6 per outing.

ERROR

From Page 28

Joe Tenorio grounded to first baseman Clinton Ruluked then made the throw to Igitol, who only needs to tag out a running Camacho to earn the first out preventing him to move 90 feet away from home plate.

Instead, the ball bounced off Igitol's glove and rolled past fair territory just a few feet away from third base. Seeing the recent turn of events, Camacho ran toward home to score the winning run to the dismay of the Tigers.

The Tigers seemed headed for a comeback win when they scored four runs in the eighth and ninth innings to tie the game. Ton Pangelinan led off with a single in the eighth then

scored, with one out, on a Reno Celis single to start their rally.

Celis moved to second base when Manny Tenorio grounded out to D9ers pitcher Leeroy Dela Cruz for a 1-3 putout play for the second out. Ben Cabrera had an infield fly, which was caught by catcher Pat Alepuyo to end the inning.

Duenas then stepped on the mound in the bottom of the eighth forcing Alepuyo to ground out to Celis on a 6-3 putout play for the first out. Speedy Larry Tenorio singled to right center, stole second base, and moved to third on a Ben Mesa single.

Tenorio was left stranded on a Tigers double play as Camacho grounded out to Celis, who made the throw to second baseman Jess Mesa for the first half of the double play.

Mesa then quickly made the

relay throw to first baseman Ruluked as Camacho failed to beat the throw to end the inning.

In the top of the ninth, Igitol was safe at first on a Camacho error when the D9ers center fielder dropped an easy fly ball. He moved to second when Dela Cruz walked Mesa.

Mabel Ngirngemelas, on a full count, swung on Dela Cruz's sixth pitch and struck out for the first out.

Dennis Cruz was safe on first on a Jeff Tenorio throwing error with Igitol scoring in that play. Pangelinan grounded out to Tenorio on a 4-3 putout play for the second out but Mesa managed to reach home in the play.

Another D9ers error gave Ruluked the chance to reach first base while Cruz scored one more run for the Tigers in Greg Camacho's error.

Celis grounded out to Tenorio on a 4-3 putout play for the final out—setting up Greg Camacho's winning run.

Last Friday, Tony Palacios pitched seven one-hit innings to lead Rock Steady to a 14-4 win over defending champion Tanapag Falcons in a battle of two previously undefeated teams.

Palacios gave up two earned runs but had nine strikeouts and walked six batters to secure Rock Steady's sixth straight win in as many games and snap the Falcons' four-game winning run.

Ton Manibusan went 2-for-4 scoring twice with a two-RBI double in Rock Steady's seven-run seventh inning scoring.

Today's game will have Kabur aiming for its first win this season when they go up against the dangerous Ford Rangers at 6:30pm.

SECOND

From Page 28

don't think I want to skip anymore classes."

Heo said that he is hoping to play at his best when he competes in several ITF Grade tournaments in New Caledonia and two more ITF-organized events in Lautoka, Fiji this summer.

Heo aims to join more ITF tournaments this year to earn needed ITF points to barge into the world junior rankings. He also played in the 2008 Jeju International Junior Championships at the Yeonjeong Tennis Courts in Jeju City but did not

adjust quickly with the below 15 degree weather at Korea's southernmost island.

Heo left Saipan on April 3, barely four days after beating Peter Loyola in the finals to successfully defend his title in the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament, and played the following day.

Heo suffered a 3-6, 3-6 loss to Gil Bo Bae, in the first round citing weather and the use of his new racquet as the reasons for his sub-par performance.

Most of the players that saw action were Koreans but the two tournaments also attracted top junior netters from Russia, China, Taiwan, and Japan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	65	16	.802	—
x-Toronto	41	40	.506	24
x-Philadelphia	40	41	.494	25
New Jersey	33	47	.413	31 1/2
New York	23	58	.284	42
Southeast Division				
y-Orlando	50	30	.625	—
x-Washington	43	38	.531	7 1/2
x-Atlanta	37	43	.463	13
Charlotte	31	49	.388	19
Miami	14	67	.173	36 1/2
Central Division				
y-Detroit	57	23	.713	—
x-Cleveland	45	36	.556	12 1/2
Indiana	35	46	.432	22 1/2
Chicago	32	49	.395	25 1/2
Milwaukee	26	55	.321	31 1/2
West Division				
Oakland	9	5	.643	—
Los Angeles	8	6	.571	1
Seattle	6	8	.429	3
Texas	5	8	.385	3 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Florida	7	5	.583	—
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	1 1/2
New York	5	6	.455	1 1/2
Atlanta	5	7	.417	2
Washington	4	9	.308	3 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	9	4	.692	—
Milwaukee	8	4	.667	1/2
Chicago	7	5	.583	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	7	6	.538	2
Cincinnati	6	7	.462	3
Houston	5	8	.385	4
West Division				
Arizona	9	4	.692	—
San Diego	7	6	.538	2
San Francisco	6	8	.429	3 1/2
Colorado	5	7	.417	3 1/2
Los Angeles	5	8	.385	4
Yesterday's Games				
Pittsburgh 6, L.A. Dodgers 4				
San Francisco 5, Arizona 4				
Detroit 11, Minnesota 9				
Boston 6, Cleveland 4				
Baltimore 4, Toronto 3				
N.Y. Yankees 8, Tampa Bay 7				
L.A. Angels 7, Texas 4				
Oakland 2, Chicago White Sox 1				
Kansas City 5, Seattle 1				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
LOCAL SCORES				
x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				
z-clinched conference				
Yesterday's Games				
Toronto 91, Miami 75				
Washington 117, Indiana 110				
Cleveland 91, Philadelphia 90				
Boston 99, New York 93				
Chicago 151, Milwaukee 135				
Utah 105, Houston 96				
San Antonio 101, Sacramento 98				
Phoenix 122, Golden State 116				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	8	5	.615	—
Boston	8	6	.571	1/2
Toronto	7	6	.538	1
New York	7	7	.500	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	6	7	.462	2
Central Division				
Kansas City	8	5	.615	—
Chicago	7	5	.583	1/2
Little League Standings				
Majors				
Patriots	8	1		
Ol'Aces	7	1		
Survivors	7	2		
Red Sox	7	2		
Hustlers I	6	1		
Dragons	6	3		
Dolphins	6	3		
Braves	4	3		
Twins	4	5		
Pirates	3	5		
Athletics	2	6		
McDonald's	2	6		
Hustlers II	1	5		
Dare JPO's	1	6		
Lions	0	7		
Suns	0	8		
BSML Standings				
Rock Steady	6	0		
Tanapag Falcons	4	1		
Korean Dreams	4	2		
Ford Rangers	3	1		
D9ers	3	3		
Tigers	1	5		
Komoro	1	5		
Kabur	0	5		

DCCA shows dominating form



The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. women's team poses for a group photo after receiving their pennant championship trophy in the Inter-government Softball League.



Team Northern Marianas College-Proa poses with their runner-up trophy after Friday's title game against DCCA.



A CUC representative, left, receives the ERA award in behalf of Dolorina Panuelo.

Photos And Text By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Back-to-back women's champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs showed its dominating form last Friday night as four of its players collected seven of the nine individual awards in the recently concluded Inter-government Softball League season.

Leading the DCCA charge is finals most valuable player Nadia Tagabuel, who was instrumental in their team's sixth-inning comeback in Game 2 to wrap up the best-of-three title series against the Northern Marianas College-Proa.

Tagabuel blasted a three-run, inside-the-park home run in Game 2 to help DCCA repeat as the women's division champion. DCCA used an eight-run bottom of the sixth scoring spree to score a come-from-behind 13-10 win over NMC-Proa. DCCA was down 10-5 after 5 1/2 innings before Tagabuel's heroics.

DCCA won Game 1 earlier in the day, 18-14, to complete the shutout win and their title defense.

Tagabuel's teammates, Doris Rangamar, Jovie Omar, and Bert Camacho also won individual trophies.

Rangamar had the most doubles the whole season with 34, while adding the triples trophy with seven. Omar won the doubles category with eight and had the most strikeouts with 32 while Camacho scored the most runs with 27.

Other members of DCCA team are Evita Maratita, Nadia Saralu, Arlene Likisap, Benny Mettao, Ruth Sakisat, Abby Atalig, and Lorna Iginoef.

NMC's Lilian Aguon earned the home run title after blasting a total of eight dingers, while Dolorina Panuelo of the Commonwealth Health Center earned the pitching crown with an 8.72 ERA.



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Doris Rangamar, center, receives three of the individual trophies that she won. She earned the most RBIs and triples, and was named the regular season most valuable player.



Bertha Camacho, center, poses with her most runs trophy together with Division of Sports and Recreation's Elias Rangamar, left, and Janice Camacho.



Doris Rangamar, center, poses with her husband Elias and their son after receiving her most RBIs trophy.



NMC-Proa's Lilian Aguon was the league's home run queen.



Jovie Omar, left, shows off her most doubles and strikeouts trophies.



A CUC representative receives the third place trophy from Division of Sports and Recreation's Elias Rangamar and Janice Camacho.



DCCA shows dominating form

Back-to-back women's champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs showed its dominating form last Friday night as four of its players collected seven of the nine individual awards.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Beasley decides to leave K-State for NBA

After putting together one of the best freshman seasons ever, Michael Beasley is headed to the NBA.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Second round exit for Heo in qualifying draw



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo managed to enter the second round of the 2008 Lee Duk Hee Cup Korea International Junior Championships but lost to a Korean foe ranked 1,164 in the world junior rankings.

Heo played twice on April 14 when he met Sangmin Park, who is ranked fifth in the tournament. Heo suffered a 0-6, 1-6 loss to Park for an early second round exit in the Grade III International Tennis Federation tournament, which was held at the Jangchoong Tennis Courts in Jangchoong, Seoul, Korea.

Despite the loss, Heo had some consolation when he defeated Korea's 40th ranked junior netter Ji Sup Kim, 6-0, 6-3 in his first round match. He said he played right away after his win over Kim.

"I felt fine in the first round because [the weather] was hot [but in] the second round [it] was about 4:30pm and it was really cold at that time," said Heo in an email at the *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo added he is now used to his new racquet. "My racquet feels fine and I'm pretty much used to it now."

While in Seoul, Heo had a chance to practice at the International Tennis Academy, which is considered one of the Top 3 tennis academies in Korea.

He is expected to be back today to resume his studies at Marianas High School. "I [still] have school and I



SERGEI BARGAMOTOV
This photo was taken in his finals match against Peter Loyola in the Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament last April 6 at the PIC courts in San Antonio.

See **SECOND** on Page 26

Esdrelon, Borja earn individual honors

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The awards keep pouring in for HANMI Cup champion Fiesta-Grand Hotel as Elmer Esdrelon and Richard Borja added two more trophies in their already packed trophy room.

Esdrelon was named the finals most valuable player while Borja earned the nod as the Coach of the Year in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League in Sunday night's award ceremony at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Esdrelon, who is also part of the mythical selection, scored 24 points with 14 coming in the fourth quarter to back up Ryan Sanciango's game-long brilliance.

Teammate Sanciango, Aqua Resort Club's Darwin Barbo, Saipan World Resort's Dennis Vinas, and Hafadai Beach Hotel's Peter Iguel are the other members of the mythical team.

Esdrelon also collected three more individual awards one of which was having the best shooting hands from downtown, as he drilled in a total of 41 3-pointers out of 67 attempts for a 61.2 percent shooting.

Esdrelon proved to be a steady free throw shooter with a 76

See **ESDRELON** on Page 26



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fiesta-Grand Hotel coach Richard Borja, right, raises the championship trophy with his left hand while holding the perpetual trophy with his right in the awards ceremony of the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Others in photo are Pacific Islands Club coach Robert Lloren and HANMI Cup coordinator Lito Espino.

Barja, Zapanta top April roll-offs

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Kitz Barja and Gigi Zapanta won the April edition of the monthly Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin

Bowling Tournament held last Sunday and Monday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Barja won his first men's monthly title of the year after the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager put together a four-game series of 895 and 223.75 average last Monday.

He beat Day 1 leader Manuel Castro by book-ending pedestrian scores of 187 and 198 in the middle games with a 234 in the first and a tourney-high 276 in the fourth.

The Fairview, Quezon City, Philippines native pocketed \$100 for his victory.

Dannie Robles finished second to Barja in the men's division after he

also leapfrogged Castro with a four-game series total of 847 and average of 211.75. He strung together games of 220, 178, 205, and 244.

Castro slipped down to third place after the 830-pinfall total and 207.5 average he logged Sunday were eclipsed by the onslaught of



MARK RABAGO

Kitz Barja, left, and Gigi Zapanta show off their winning after topping the April edition of the monthly Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament held last Sunday and Monday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Barja and Robles Monday. The new bowling recruit from Grace Christian Academy had games of 197,

See **BARJA** on Page 26

Error helps D9ers edge Tigers in SML

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



One error spelled victory for one team while it proved disastrous for the other.

A bottom of the ninth error by Tigers third baseman Ivan Igitol helped D9ers escape with a 15-14 win in Monday night's game in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

With the score tied a 14-14, after the Tigers rallied from a four-run deficit after seven innings, Greg Camacho singled off Tigers pitcher Ben Duenas and later stole second base to move closer into scoring position.

See **ERROR** on Page 26



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Elmer Esdrelon of Fiesta-Grand Hotel eyes the hoop as he tries to score in their finals game against Pacific Islands Club in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.